

# Inquiry to fix blame for £200m losses by the Crown Agents

A committee of inquiry into individual responsibility for losses of at least £200m by the Crown Agents is being set up by the Prime Minister. There will be an

emergency debate in the Commons on Monday on the Fay report, which was published yesterday. This details the financial mismanagement up to the property market collapse early in the 1970s.

## Emergency debate on Monday

By Malcolm Brown  
Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, has set up a committee of inquiry into the Crown Agents' financial mismanagement, personal empire building, and failure by the Ministry for Overseas Development, the Treasury and the Bank of England to put a stop to the affair before the property market collapse of the early 1970s, brought about the disintegration of the Crown Agents' speculative financial dealings.

A three-hour emergency debate on the Fay report is to be held in the Commons on Monday. Sir Carl's report, which will be studied by, among others, the Director of Public Prosecutions, could lead to criminal and civil actions.

Charges of corruption are pending against Mr Sidney Finley, a financier whose company became involved with the Agents, and had been laid against Mr Bernard Wheatley, the Crown Agents' former sterling money market manager who, at the time of his death in July 1977, was awaiting trial.

Mr Silkin, the Attorney-General, disclosed yesterday that civil actions had been initiated against the estate of the late Mr Wheatley. Mr Finley and three others, claiming the return of money.

The sum involved was set at £10m. Mr Silkin said, adding that about £7,000m was in respect of Mr Wheatley.

Despite vigorous protests from the Opposition, Mrs Judith Hart, the Minister for Overseas Development, defended her decision to hold the Agents' inquiry in secret. After making her statement on the affair to the House of Commons, Mrs Hart said there was no question of a cover-up.

The terms of reference of the inquiry are: "To investigate the circumstances of the collapse of the Crown Agents' property market investments, and to recommend measures to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster."

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The nature and gravity of any neglect or breach of duty by individuals which may have contributed to the collapse of the Crown Agents' property market investments, and to recommend measures to prevent a recurrence of such a disaster.

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## Doctors rebuff scrutiny plan

Despite doctors' objections a Commons select committee has recommended that the Health Service Commission should be able to consider complaints about clinical judgments in hospitals. The British Medical Association says the change would be detrimental to patients' treatment. The Royal College of Nursing expressed concern that some matters appeared to be hidden behind the phrase "clinical judgment".

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## Lords ban US move

The House of Lords rejected a United States request for seven Rio Tinto-Zinc directors and employees, past and present, to give evidence in a case concerning an alleged uranium cartel. An attempt by the United States Attorney General to secure their testimony was described as an unacceptable invasion of British sovereignty.

Law Report, page 20; Business News, 21

## Threat to ships order

Shipyards throughout the country are being asked by out-fitters' shop stewards to "black" the seven vessels of the Polish order transferred from Swan Hunter yards on Tyneide because of the overtime ban by 1,700 out-fitters.

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## Cricket in contrast

Official cricket and Kerry Packer's series provide a contrast of interest today. Australia play India in the first Test at Brisbane and 1,500 miles away in Melbourne, Mr Packer starts his special series with a match between Australians and West Indians.

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## Smith regime opens talks with blacks

Constitutional talks between the Rhodesian Government and internal black nationalist groups open in Salisbury today, even though Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the United African National Congress, which commands the greatest support among black Rhodesians, will not attend.

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## Power cuts in France

Hospitals and other consumers suffered power cuts and schoolchildren were left without teachers during a one-day general strike called by the left-wing French trade unions in protest against the Government's austerity measures. But most Paris buses and underground trains were running.

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## Civil Service head

Sir Ian Bancroft, Permanent Secretary to the Department of the Environment, is to succeed Sir Douglas Allen as Head of the Home Civil Service. He will also be Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department.

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## Payment of councillors

Local authority councillors should receive a flat-rate sum of £1,000 a year to replace the present attendance allowance, a government committee under Mr Derek Robinson proposes.

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## National insurance rise

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At least four people were killed by this landslide in a suburb of Göteborg, Sweden, which destroyed about 40 houses on Wednesday night after heavy rainfall.

## Cairo talks delayed in Arab peace move

Cairo, Dec 1.—Egypt today confirmed an announcement last night that the Cairo peace talks had been postponed to December 14, and retreated from plans to invite "independent" West Bank Palestinians.

Both moves appeared to be aimed at softening the total rejection of the talks by most other Arab states.

Mr Burros Ghali, the Egyptian foreign minister, denied earlier reports from ministry officials that Cairo had invited Palestinians not affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to participate in the talks between Egypt, Israel and American officials.

He was quoted by the semi-official Middle East News Agency as saying no decision had yet been reached on the plan as an attempt to deny its claim to be sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Diplomatic sources said Saudi Arabia was leading a move by Arab states to beat the Arab divisions owned by Mr Sadat's historic visit to Israel. Mr Ghali declined direct comment on the reported Saudi moves, but said he believed "there is still a chance" that Syria and the PLO would attend the Cairo talks.—UPI

## Government seeks 14 days' notice of new public sector pay offers

By Paul Routledge  
and Christopher Thomas

The Government has told public sector employers to give ministers a fortnight's notice of new or amended pay offers to be submitted to the National Board on their claim for 90 per cent rises, he challenged the Government to have a statutory policy instead of the present "most involuntary" system.

Mr Cormaney voiced a desire to move away from annual cash awards to a long-term wage agreement for the industry. He did not develop the idea, and the coal board promised to consider carefully arguments for a 10 per cent which has become the minimum and not the maximum, he said.

By so doing they have allowed themselves no flexibility at all. Indeed, they are seen to be administering the policy with less flexibility than if it were statutory.

As a result, we are in real trouble on the pay front and are not making the sort of systematic return to free bargaining which we need if we are to sort out all the anomalies and frustrations that have arisen during stages one and two.

The full Whitley Council last night over the Masterman committee report on civil servants' political activities in 1970.

While public sector pay remains the most publicized aspect of the wage round, an indication of the difficulties in the private sector came from the Engineering Employers' Federation.

At an industrial correspon-

dent's luncheon in London, Mr Anthony Frodsham, director general of the federation, rejected a pay claim for 1,300,000 workers even before it had been submitted. Details of the demand by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, to be put on December 15, "do not bear serious consideration at this stage", he argued.

The confederation is expected to set a target next week of £70 a week as a basic rate for craftsmen and £35 for labourers.

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## National Party wins 80 pc of seats to form record S African majority

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Dec 1

The ruling National Party (NP) will hold 80 per cent of the seats in the next South African Parliament after its landslide victory in the general election. When counting stopped tonight the party had won 134 of the 165 seats, giving it the biggest majority ever seen in South Africa.

The parliamentary opposition has been slashed by one third. A combined total of 30 seats are now held by the three opposition parties—17 by the Progressive Federal Party (PFP), 10 by the New Republic Party (NRP) and three by the South African Party (SAP). The PFP will take over from the defunct United Party (UP) as the official opposition party in the next Parliament, where it is likely to find the NRP and the SAP supporting the Government on a number of key issues.

One seat, Springs, remains to be filled. The election was postponed after the murder two weeks ago of the NP candidate, Dr Robert Smuts, the Prime Minister, elected by the size of his election victory, said that the South African electorate had "spoken out clearly against foreign interference in South Africa's domestic affairs."

The issue of outside pressure had been the main platform of the National Party's election campaign. Mr Vorster conceded that the election result might lead to an increase in this pressure but he felt it would also make the world take note that South Africa would resist if attacked.

The leader of the PFP, Mr Colin Eglin, said the election results indicated two trends. One was towards the NP but the other was a trend among opposition voters away from the NRP towards the PFP.

While I am distressed by the overall trend of the election which I think is going to

lead to more authoritarianism and a hardening of race attitudes, I am tremendously pleased with the PFP performance seen against the background of theoretical trend", Mr Eglin declared.

Despite his optimism, there was some disappointment that the party did not win more seats. Its total was one less than the party held at the time Parliament was dissolved.

The PFP performed best in the Cape peninsula, winning seven out of 10 seats, and in Johannesburg. Virtually all the seats it won were in affluent, middle-class constituencies which have strong liberal traditions.

Some of the PFP's worst results were in the six seats represented by a group of MPs who crossed from the UP to the PFP last September. Only the group's leader, Mr Japie Basson, held his seat by a tiny margin of 50.

The party also fared badly in Natal where it was hoping to win over English-speaking voters who had previously voted for the UP.

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Continued on page 7, col 5

## Dead elms 'may have committed suicide'

By Philip Howard

The elms that have died in millions, in a melancholy devastation of the characteristic leafy landscape of southern England, may not have been actively wiped out by Dutch elm disease after all.

A university research project has findings suggesting that the elms "committed suicide" in a futile attempt to resist the disease. If that proves to be so it might help to produce a variety of elm that resists the disease.

The Agricultural Research Council has just given £12,380 to the crop protection group of the School of Biological Sciences at Bath University to examine the minute fungi living in the soil that cause wilting and death in such crops as tomatoes, peas, bananas, cotton, and alfalfa. The group is also studying the similar fungus that causes Dutch elm disease.

The conventional explanation until now has been that the fungus enters the elm by bark beetles feeding on its twigs. It invades its water-conducting system by producing spores which are rapidly swept upwards in the water that flows by osmosis up to the leaves. That causes, figuratively, a sort of botanical arteriosclerosis. The spores block the plant's vascular system (the vessels that carry its essential foods), cutting off the flow of water and nutrients.

The plant wilts. Its leaves turn yellow, its yield is reduced. And, if it is an old elm, it can be seen in the skeletons and graveyards of elms throughout the south of England.

Dr Richard Cooper, of the Bath crop protection group, has discovered in his studies of elms in diseased elms what seems to happen is that the fungi secrete poisons that stimulate the host plant automatically to seal off its sap-carrying vessels with sticky gels and growths like In less vulnerable plants, such as tomatoes and peas, that reaction traps the spores, and allows the plant's own built-in antibiotics to kill the parasite. In elms the reaction is more traumatic. Their vascular system is almost completely sealed. In effect, the elms commit suicide by self-strangulation.

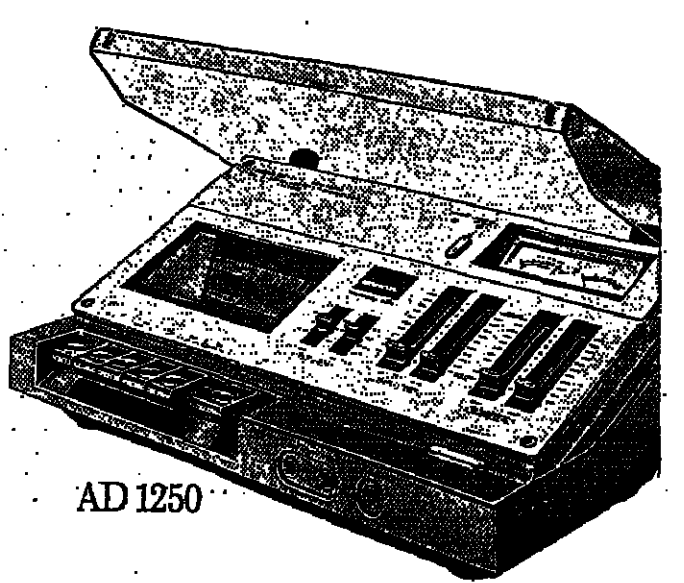
Although plant varieties especially bred and selected to resist disease are at present the most effective means of controlling this group of fungi, remarkably little is known about why they are resistant. Dr Cooper's group is studying the mechanisms in plants that shut down their water-conducting systems when attacked.

If that is found to be the method by which certain varieties of plant resist disease, it may help to develop new resistant varieties, even of the vulnerable and vanishing elm.

Glasgow crash  
An elderly woman died, and 14 people were injured, some seriously, in a crash between a cement mixer and bus in Dalmeir Road, Glasgow, yesterday.

Firemen's strike, page 2

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HOME NEWS

# National insurance rates rise will favour self-employed

By Pat Healy  
National Insurance Correspondent

National insurance contributions for people earning £120 a week or more will rise by £1.76 a week in April at the start of the Government's new earnings-related pension scheme. People on average earnings of £80 a week will pay 60p a week more, but the self-employed and those contracted out of the state pension scheme will pay less.

About 16 million employees are expected to pay more under the new contribution rates, which will go up in spite of hopes that successive surpluses in the National Insurance Fund would make further increases unnecessary. The Government Actuary's report accompanying the order laid before Parliament yesterday says that nevertheless there will be a deficit of £25m in 1978-79.

But the report, which has led the Government to decide that the rates must be raised, is based on several assumptions that are open to question. On Treasury instructions, the Government Actuary assumed that the number of unemployed would rise from an average of 1,370,000 in 1977-78 to 1,470,000 in 1978-79, both excluding school-leavers.

The second assumption is that earnings will increase between July this year and July next year at the annual rate of 10 per cent, in line with government guidelines. The third assumption is that prices will rise by 6½ per cent between last month and November, 1978, and that pensions will rise later by 10 per cent and short-term benefits by 6½ per cent next November.

Last year, on similar assumptions about prices, the Government Actuary assumed that pensions would rise last month by 8 per cent and short-term benefits by 6½ per cent respectively. In fact, prices rose more than that in the year ended November last month, and all benefits rose last month by 14 per cent.

However, Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, announced yesterday that the Government Actuary's report had led to the conclusion that the standard contribution rates would rise to 6.5 per cent for employees and 10 per cent for employers next April, replacing the present rates of 5.75 per cent and 8.75 per cent respectively.

The lower earnings limit, below which contributions are not compulsory, will rise to £17.50, and the earnings limit to £120, roughly seven times the pension rates. The present contribution limits are £15 and £105 a week.

Employees who are contracted out because their occupational pension schemes are recognized as providing benefits at least as good as the state scheme will pay 6.5 per cent on earnings up to £17.50, but 4 per cent on earnings between that and £120 a week. Their employers will pay 5.5 per cent on earnings between £17.50 and £120.

About nine million employees are expected to be contracted out, and the effect of the new rates will be to reduce the national insurance contribution paid by a person on £105 a week by £1.40. An employee earning £80 a week will pay 96p a week less.

The flat-rate contribution for self-employed men will drop from £2.66 to £1.90, which will also be the new rate for self-employed women, whose present flat rate is £2.55 a week.

The earnings-related contribution rate for the self-employed is to be reduced from 8 per cent to 5 per cent, in recognition of the fact that the self-employed cannot get an earnings-related pension in return. The profit levels on which they pay earnings-related contributions will be raised at the lower level from £1,750 a year to £2,000 a year and at the high level from £5,500 to £6,250.

The effect will be to reduce contributions for men with annual profits of £950 by £39.52 a year at the bottom rate, and by £127.02 a year at the top rate of £6,250 profits. The reduction for self-employed women will be £5.72 less.

Report by the Government Actuary on the draft of the Social Security (Contributions, Rating) (No. 2) Order 1977 (Command 7036, Stationery Office, 35p).

## Concern at convictions in Grunwick cases

By a Staff Reporter

Lawyers acting for the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) are growing increasingly concerned about what they regard as an abnormally high conviction rate among pickets charged with offences connected with demonstrations outside the Grunwick factory in north London.

Last night defence solicitors engaged by Apex were studying a report in the *Socialist Challenge*, the left-wing newspaper, of an alleged private conversation, in which a magistrate took part, concerning Grunwick cases. The magistrate was quoted as expressing the view that "very light" sentences given to pickets were unsatisfactory.

The report of the conversation is contained in an affidavit from an unnamed north London general practitioner who was said to have been present, with one other person, when it took place.

After the publication of the article yesterday, counsel for Apex appearing at Whistler Magistrates' Court in a case involving a picket charged with threatening behaviour and obstructing a police officer sought an adjournment. A transfer of the case to another court was granted after a 40-minute retirement by the magistrates.

Among the courses of action being considered by defence solicitors last night are High Court writs to have convictions quashed and retrials ordered.

## Children 'at risk' at Christmas

Christmas is a time when children are set on the path to alcoholism, the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches says in a warning to parents.

"Many children have their first drink at Christmas," the council states. "Parents should be warned not to give alcohol to anyone under age."

## New Head of the Home Civil Service is regarded as a safe choice Top Whitehall post for Sir Ian Bancroft

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Ian Bancroft, Permanent Secretary to the Department of the Environment, is to succeed Sir Douglas Allen as Head of the Home Civil Service.

A statement from 10 Downing Street indicated that he would be Permanent Secretary to the Civil Service Department, thereby ending, temporarily, speculation that it might disappear as a ministry in the wake of a fundamental reorganization of central Government by the Prime Minister.

Mr Clagahan, who shares the widespread dissatisfaction in Whitehall and Westminster with the shape and scope of the department, particularly its control of manpower and efficiency, will issue his reply to a critical report from the Commons Expenditure Committee in the form of a White Paper in January.

Sir Ian, who will be 55 this month, has been front-runner for the post since he became second permanent secretary at the department in 1972. He moved to the Department of the Environment as permanent secretary two years later.

He is regarded in Whitehall as the safe choice. The appointment is seen as a sign that the Prime Minister's well known caution may have overcome his original desire for a thoroughgoing change in the structure of government, at least until after the next election.

Another factor in the choice

may have been the need to reassure the Civil Service trade union whose resentment on a spectrum of issues, particularly pay, is great.

Sir Ian is well remembered by the staff associations from his earlier period at the department. Previously, he had been strong of Sandhurst before him, was primarily an economic adviser by background.

Sir Ian is expected to take up his post on January 1. His salary of £18,883 will rise to £20,353.

No successor has been named at the Department of the Environment. A likely candidate is Sir John Garlick, second permanent secretary in charge of the constitution unit.

A moment that illustrates Sir Ian Bancroft's method stands out in the blurred memory of last year's hearings on the Civil Service by the Commons Expenditure Committee. Questioned by an earnest backbench MP about the accountability of the large part of his bailiwick at the Department of the Environment, Sir Ian leant back in his chair and murmured, almost to himself, "I love parliamentary control", emphasizing the word "love".



Sir Ian Bancroft: Courty manner.

Although, from the printed record, the episode seems to have been missed by the minister, it captured Sir Ian to perfection. Others grow truculent or reticent on such occasions. Sir Ian's tactic was to pour balm on the resentments they excluded from power.

Of backbenchers snarling at Sir Douglas Allen represents a flintier type of Treasury man, the kind who spares neither ministers, MPs, nor fellow officials. Sir Ian is much more old-style Treasury, his courtly and courteous manner concealing a fairly deadly ability when

it comes to interdepartmental operating.

Leaders of the Civil Service unions, being traditional animals, like this side of Sir Ian. A veteran of staff-side negotiations once described him as "smooth as monumental alabaster".

The telephone call from 10 Downing Street yesterday, telling him he was to become head of his profession, must have come as a profound relief. Sir Ian has not taken easily to being the front-runner and one aspect of the job more than he ever cared to admit. Sir Frank Cooper, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, represented a formidable rival for the top job, provided it continued to exist.

Sir Ian, characteristically, withdrew into his shell when the matter of speaking to the newspapers was mooted. He has always underestimated his ability with the press. He can be fluent and persuasive in private but the tension occasionally shows.

Son of a Middlesbrough schoolmaster, he was educated at Coatham School. He read English at Exeter and there remains a touch of the contemptuous scholar about him in his conversation and the drafting of White Papers.

He gets on well with Prime Minister, who served as private secretary during his period as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

## How the Tories would use oil revenue

By George Clark

Conservative plans to use the revenue from North Sea oil for a "soundly based revival of the British economy", were outlined by Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he spoke in the City of London last night.

He said it would be wrong for the opportunity presented by North Sea oil to be entrusted to a socialist Administration that would found its policies on the same basic fallacies that had taken Britain from a long way along the wrong road. It would again adopt the false seductive "planned approach".

A Conservative government would start from different

premises. The main object would be to regard the revenues as providing a breathing space in which positive steps were taken "essential to the revival of a free economy, in which socialists do not believe, and which they do not understand".

First, a Conservative government would set about repaying part of the huge load of debt. Next, there would be wise investment.

"This does not mean the government throwing millions of pounds at the British Steel Corporation or into the hands of the National Enterprise Board, still less those of Mr Tony Benn," he said. "The money must for the most part

be ploughed back by private enterprise, using its own judgment."

There must be restoration of incentives by the reduction of personal taxation, relaxation of exchange control, and specific encouragement to investment in the development of alternative sources of energy against the day when North Sea oil runs out.

The real choice of the people at the next election would be "between a dynamic free enterprise economy like West Germany, or a dreary East German extension of state control."

When Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke on Trent, South), a member of the group, asked the Prime Minister yesterday why the Government did not suggest a prices and incomes board to operate alongside a voluntary pay policy, Mr Callaghan replied:

"The experience of prices and incomes policy in the past shows clearly that these kinds of institutions cannot operate unless they have the full consent and support of those they are intended to control or who take part in them."

Mr Steel, in his speech to the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, said that if the Government was "rightly and belatedly" considering re-establishing some public body on pay it should do so in consultation not only with the Liberals but with the Conservatives.

## Man jailed under Prevention of Terrorism Act

Peter Grimes, national organizer in the United Kingdom of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, was sentenced at Old Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, to three months' imprisonment, the first man to be charged and convicted under special provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Mr Grimes, aged 30, a gardener, of Wellington Way, Bow, London, admitted failing to inform the police information that he believed might have helped to prevent an act of terrorism.

Provisional figures showed that 4,804 fires had been reported during the week, an increase of 812 on the first week. The number of fires reported in an average week was 11,000. The number of deaths in the two weeks, was slightly above the 36 usual in similar periods.

Man damaged fire station: Robert Wilks, of St Paul's Road, Cambridge, whose wife and son died in a caravan fire five years ago, smashed windows and damaged a fire tender at Cambridge fire headquarters, the city's magistrates were told yesterday. He was conditionally discharged for a year and ordered to pay £50 compensation.

## Mr Callaghan refuses to be drawn on plans for pay

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Cabinet ministers last night were rejecting suggestions that the Government has begun considering future pay policy after the present round ends in July, although there is little doubt there have been informal discussions among ministers directly involved.

The Prime Minister was pressed in the Commons yesterday on pay policy after remarks by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, at a private meeting on Wednesday of the centre-right Manifesto in which he appeared to hint Group of Labour backbenchers, he was considering some form of machinery.

Mr Callaghan told MPs that the Chancellor was entitled to a little thinking about the one big problem facing this country, which was pressed by Mr Pym, shadow Leader of the House, the Prime Minister said: "I am afraid I am not going to be pinned down to what is to be the future of pay settlements in the autumn of 1978; I have enough to get through the autumn of 1977."

Although Mr Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, in a speech yesterday welcomed the Chancellor's hint that we may have to establish a unit to monitor and help adjudicate

on pay claims, some Cabinet ministers were expressing the view privately that they would be opposed to some form of resurrected pay board on the ground that it would invite every union in the country to submit claims to it.

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## Firemen stop picketing soldiers at Bootle

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

A picket by striking firemen aimed at stopping civilian supplies reaching firefighters troops at Bootle on Merseyside was lifted yesterday after representations by senior union officials.

It started on Wednesday outside a former maternity home to which 100 soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, had been transferred from a barracks criticized for its lack of comfort.

The Merseyside brigade committee of the Fire Brigades Union voted to reverse the decision it had taken earlier in the day to continue the picket. It thereby brought its members at Bootle into line with the union's policy of not interfering with troops.

Its decision came on the eve of a crucial meeting between the TUC finance and general purposes committees and FBU leaders at which the firemen will press for a campaign by unions against the Government's insistence on a limit of 10 per cent on pay rises in the public sector.

The FBU executive is expected to remind the TUC leaders at the meeting of the Composite motion eight, which was passed at the congress in September, opposing the use of cash limits to hold back pay settlements in the public services.

The union's interpretation of the motion, which said that any understanding on wages policy would be unacceptable if the system of cash limits continued, is that the public sector should not be treated less favourably than private industry.

The union estimates that by last night it had received about £14,000 from other unions and that public contributions had totalled more than £100,000.

Mr Richard Fossie, FBU assistant general secretary, said: "From what indications we have at present it appears that we shall not go under from lack of funds."

Risk worsens: Fires increased quite considerably in the second week of the firemen's strike, the Home Office said yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Provisional figures showed that 4,804 fires had been reported during the week, an increase of 812 on the first week. The number of fires reported in an average week was 11,000. The number of deaths in the two weeks, was slightly above the 36 usual in similar periods.

Man damaged fire station: Robert Wilks, of St Paul's Road, Cambridge, whose wife and son died in a caravan fire five years ago, smashed windows and damaged a fire tender at Cambridge fire headquarters, the city's magistrates were told yesterday. He was conditionally discharged for a year and ordered to pay £50 compensation.

## Radioactive find delays building

The discovery of radioactive contamination, believed to be from luminous paint, on a building site at Arlington Avenue, Islington, London, has delayed a council housing scheme.

Islington council is calling in the National Radiological Protection Board to supervise the clearance of radioactive material, which is said to present no danger to residents in the area.

## Excisemen strike

Customs officers at Humber ports are due to strike today over the Government's refusal to assess their pay in comparison with other wage earners.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today  
Sun rises: 7.45 am  
Sun sets: 3.55 pm  
Moon sets: Moon rises: 11.46 am  
Moon sets: 10.35 pm

Last quarter: Tomorrow.  
Lighting up: 12.25 pm to 1.17 am.

High Water: London Bridge, 5.15 am (21.3ft); 5.46 pm (21.3ft).  
Low Water: London Bridge, 10.33 am (37.5ft); 10.33 pm (37.5ft).  
Dover, 2.22 am (19.7ft); 2.48 pm (5.7m) (19.7ft).  
Lough, 8.52 am (6.2m) (20.3ft); 9.49 pm (6.5m) (21.2ft).  
Liverpool, 2.43 am (7.9m) (25.8ft); 2.57 pm (8.1m) (26.5ft).

Pressure remains high NE of Britain.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:  
London, SE, E and NE England, East Angles, Channel Islands: Mostly dry, some bright or sunny intervals, a few showers near on-shore coasts; wind E, light or moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Central S, Central N and NW England, Midlands, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Dull and misty at first, a little rain in places, some bright or sunny intervals; wind SE or E, light or moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F).

SW England, S. Wales: Rather cloudy at times, bright intervals, a little rain in places; wind SE, moderate; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Fog patches at first, clearing slowly, bright intervals; wind SE, light; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE and NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Fog patches at first, sunny intervals, dry; wind S, light; max temp 5°C or 6°C (41° to 43°F).

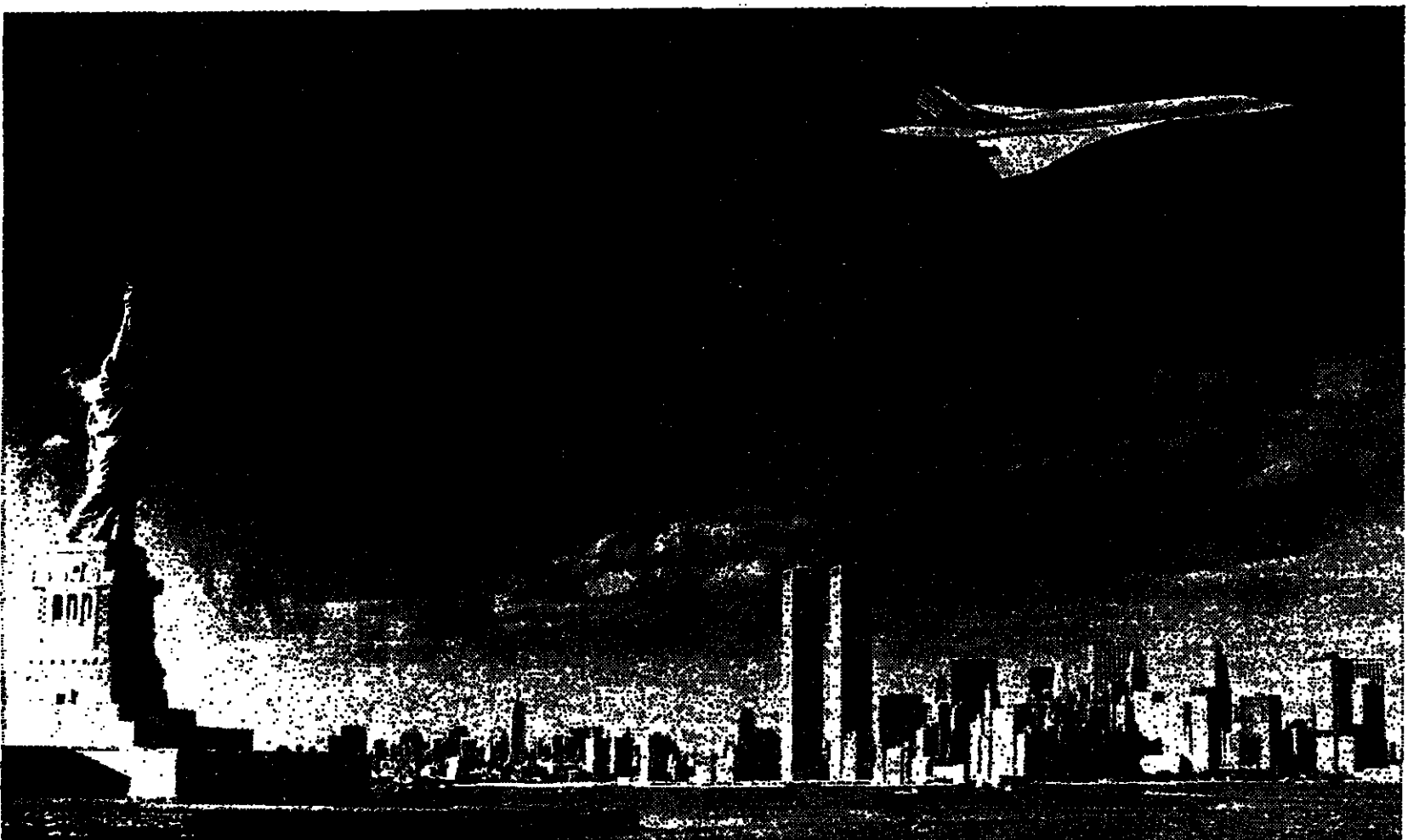
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Mostly dry and generally rather cold with overcast front and fog. W districts milder with rain later.

Sea passages: S North Sea.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDNIGHT: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; g, snow.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c
Aberdeen	15	SE	c

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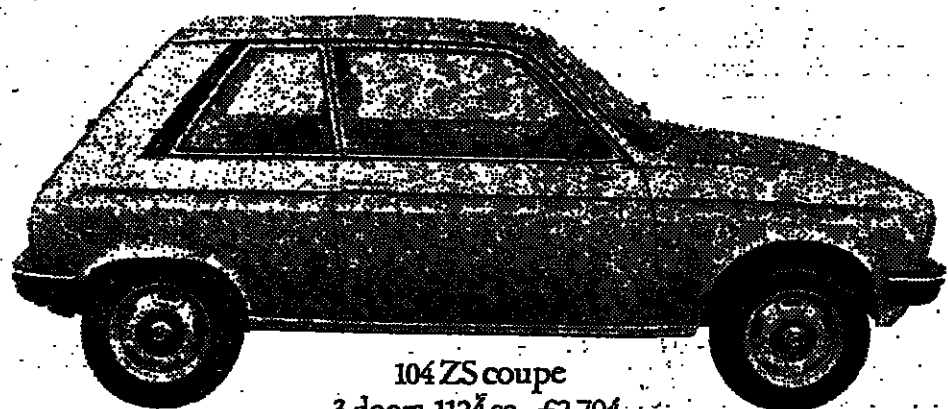
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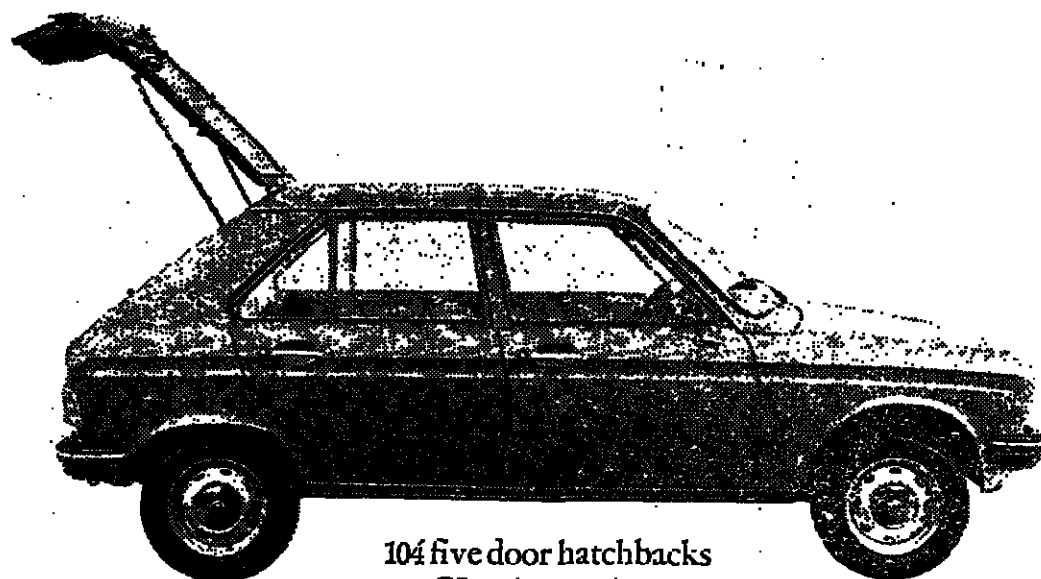
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
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Aberdeen	15	SE	c



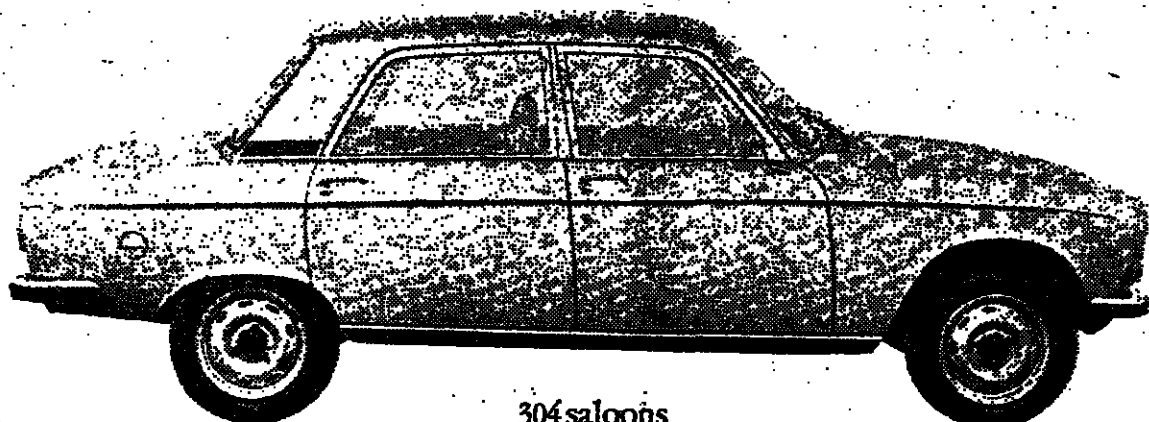
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104 ZS coupe  
3 doors, 1124 cc - £2,704



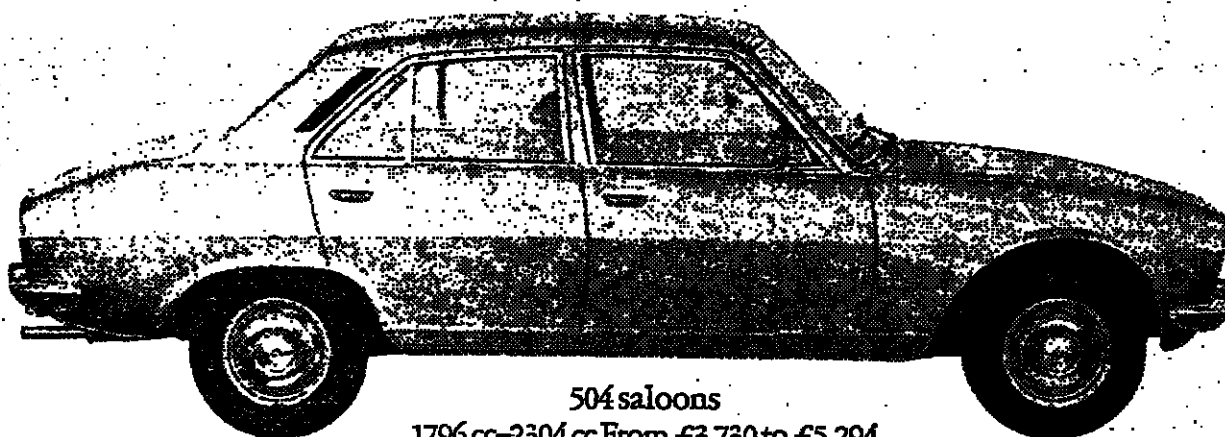
104 five door hatchbacks  
GL 954 cc - £2,287  
SL 1124 cc - £2,600



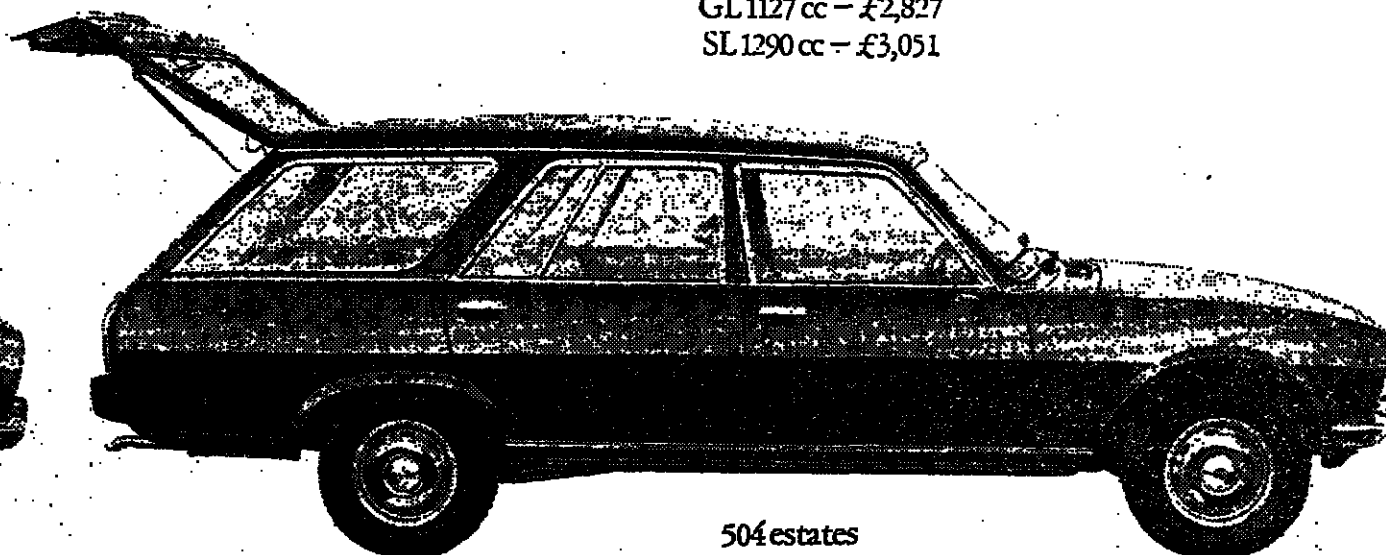
304 saloons  
GL 1290 cc - £2,810  
SLS 1290 cc - £3,151



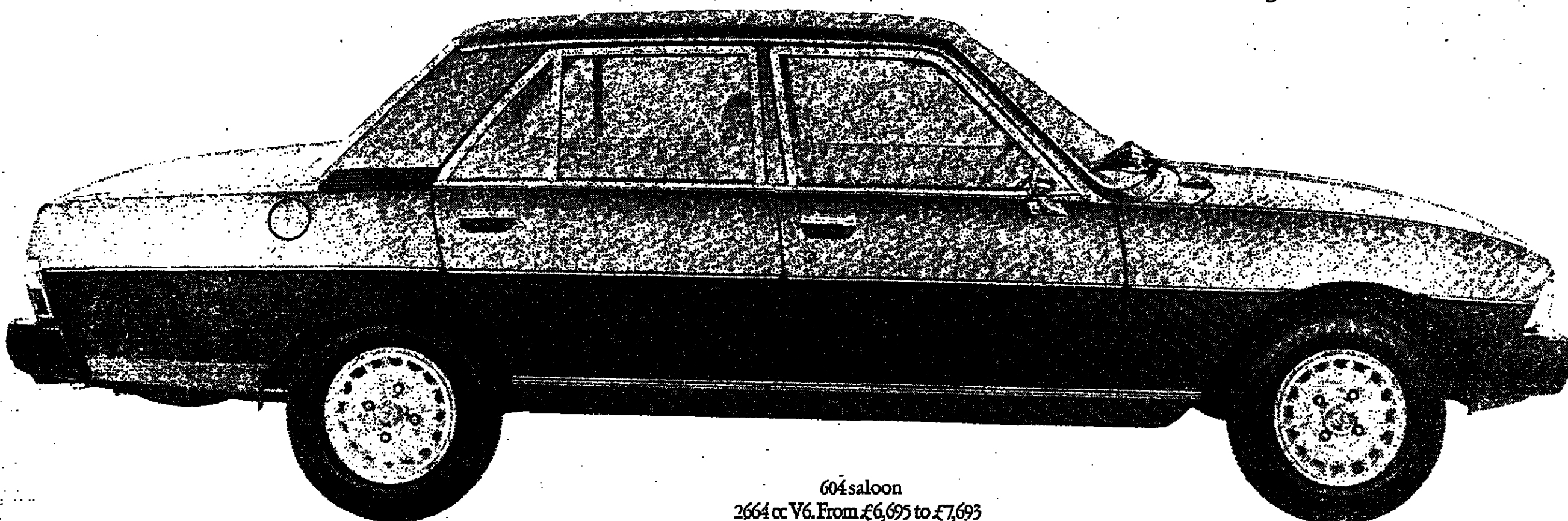
304 estates  
GL 1127 cc - £2,827  
SL 1290 cc - £3,051



504 saloons  
1796 cc-2304 cc From £3,730 to £5,294  
Petrol and Diesel Models



504 estates  
1796 cc-2304 cc From £4,107 to £5,696  
Petrol and Diesel Models.  
Also Family Estate model with  
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HOME NEWS

# Basic payment of £1,000 a year proposed for councillors, with up to £3,000 more in some cases

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government  
Correspondent

A senior councillor with a large local authority could earn up to £4,000 a year under proposals published yesterday by a committee of inquiry set up by the Government.

The committee, chaired by Mr Derek Robinson, an Oxford don, recommends that every councillor on the 521 main local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland should receive a flat payment of £1,000 a year for his or her role as an elected member and to cover certain expenses.

In addition, senior members, such as main committee chairmen, would receive special responsibility payments of up to £3,000 a year.

The present system of reimbursing councillors by paying a maximum of £11 a day with attendance allowance should be abolished, the committee says. The new arrangements would include the reintroduction of a financial loss allowance.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that the Government would consider the proposals before discussing them with the local authority associations.

If implemented in full the cost of the proposed system is estimated to be about £30m. The cost of the attendance allowances in 1975-76 was £9.4m, but the committee says they have been unchanged for four years, and that an upgrading of the cost would give a figure of about £20m.

Mr Robinson said yesterday that the £30m cost, which would be the taxpayer, should be seen as fall on either the taxpayer or a proportion of the cost of local government of about £15,000m.

The committee, which produced a unanimous report, was convinced that a strong, healthy, viable structure of local government was essential to maintain democracy.

Under the proposed changes some councillors would receive more, and some less, but the total is outside the Government's 10 per cent guideline on pay. The committee recognizes that because of economic constraints the Government might find it necessary to introduce the scheme initially with a lower basic payment and a reduced scale of special responsibility payments.

As a result of reorganization the number of councillors has been reduced from 46,000 to 26,000, and a survey by the committee shows that on average they spend 79 hours a month on council activities compared with 52 hours in 1964. The survey found that three quarters of councillors are economically active, the same proportion as for the population as a whole.

Half of all councillors are employees, just over a fifth are self-employed, and almost a sixth are retired. About 7 per cent are housewives and only 2 per cent are unemployed or sick. The committee found that manual workers are still statistically greatly underrepresented.

Mr Robinson said the committee had rejected the idea of full-time salaries for councillors. "That would present too great a threat to the long established voluntary principle that plays such an important part in British public life."

The report recommends the abolition of the present attendance allowance system because it has been widely misunderstood and carries the "undeniable suspicion that it encourages malpractice."

The recommendation of £1,000 a year for all councillors of the community. The sum is also designed to cover expenses such as telephones, postage and stationery, but not separate

Population band	No of councillors (special respons. areas)	Cost of basic payments (£1000)	Cost of special responsibility payments (£2000)	Total cost (£000)
Under 50,000	1,625 (194)	1,625	145	1,770
50-100,000	9,457 (790)	9,457	790	10,247
100-400,000	10,538 (1,021)	10,538	1,531	12,069
Over 400,000	4,904 (428)	4,904	1,284	6,188
	26,524 (2,433)	26,524	3,751	30,275

## Brother may seek annulment of accident verdict

The brother of a woman found dead in the cowshed of an isolated west Wales farmhouse said last night that he would consider an appeal to the Divisional Court to have the verdict of accidental death annulled.

Mr John Roberts, the Carmarthen coroner, had earlier recorded a verdict of accidental death on Mrs Rita Moffatt

Bailey of Gwarall Farm, Llan-fydd, Dyfed, who was found dead in the cowshed of an isolated west Wales farmhouse said last night that he would consider an appeal to the Divisional Court to have the verdict of accidental death annulled.

Mr Roberts said there was not the slightest evidence of foul play. He did not accept the suggestion made by Dr Bernard Knight, a pathologist engaged by the dead woman's family, that death could have occurred elsewhere than in the cowshed. He said the evidence supported his decision not to

call a jury, as requested. During the hearing, Mrs Angela van der Putte, Mrs Moffatt-Bailey's brother, walked out of the court with his family. He later complained that Dr Knight's evidence had been rejected by the coroner.

In evidence Dr Knight, reader in forensic pathology at a Cardiff Hospital, said two deep parallel wounds at the

back of her head had caused Mrs Moffatt-Bailey's death. He could find nothing in the cowshed that could have caused the wounds.

Dr Owen Williams, a Home Office pathologist, said the injuries could have arisen from a fall after kick from a cow in the cowshed. He was satisfied that they had not been caused by a blow.

## Skipper is cleared over herring ban

Donal McAlinden, a trawler skipper, was cleared by Plymouth magistrates yesterday of breaking a new herring ban aimed at conserving stocks.

He was alleged to have scooped up £58,000 of the fish with his boat, the Scottish registered Quo Vadis, in October during an 18-hour fishing trip.

The bench agreed with Mr Owen Thomas, QC, for the defence, that there was no case to answer because the prosecution had not proved that the fish were caught in a banned area. The defence was granted £810 costs.

Mr McAlinden, of Warren Point, Co Down, Northern Ireland, had denied the offence, could have been fined up to £50,000.

Spanish skippers fined: Two Spanish trawler skippers who admitted fishing without licences inside British and European Community territorial limits were each fined £10,000 and had their catch confiscated at Milford Haven Magistrates' Court, Dyfed, yesterday. Spain is not a member of the EEC.

Javier Aguirre Abotia, 34, and Juan Aguirre Abotia, 26, admitted that they had taken a chance inside the limits when their ships, which were fishing as a pair, were detained by the fishery protection vessel Dromed on Wednesday.

They were ordered to pay £100 costs and £15 interpreter's fee, and their ships were ordered to be detained until the penalties were paid.

## Couple give up £120,000 in will case

A couple who maintained that evil gossip forced them to close their nursing home after a patient had left them more than £150,000 agreed yesterday to give up nearly four-fifths of the money to the family.

Mr James Willis and his wife, Margaret, formerly of Clifton Drive South, St Annes on Sea, Lancashire, had asked the High Court to void the last will of Mr William Rowland Brown, who died in their nursing home at Lytham St Annes in February, 1975.

Mr William Rowland Brown, Mr Ingham's nephew of Guildhall Street, Folkestone, Kent, contested the case, consenting that the signature on the will was a forgery.

Mr Justice Willett, QC, for Mr and Mrs Willis, said yesterday that the parties had reached a settlement. The individual gifts under the will, including farms to Mr Brown and a £7,000 bungalow to Mrs Willis, would remain.

The residue, about £150,000 and bequeathed to Mr Willis, would be divided, leaving him only a fifth share. The other four fifths would be held on trust for Mr Brown and his wife and four children in accordance with an earlier will made by Mr Brown.

## Drink fines up

Magistrates at Chichester, Sussex, who in May began fining motorists on drink-driving offences £1 for every milligram of alcohol in the blood, have increased the scale by a tenth to meet inflation.

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The chief obstacle to the expansion of political education in schools is likely to be the fear that it will encourage pupils to take political action, according to a Hansard Society working party on political education. It insists nevertheless that teaching pupils skills relevant to political action is an essential part of political literacy.

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The Crick report said if society wanted responsible citizens it would plainly have to tolerate some of the unpredictable inconveniences of action and participation. Schools

## Big devolution issues get past without debate

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

With only four days of the Scotland Bill committee completed, it is clear that devolution legislation will reach the House of Lords with many matters undebated. Mr Foot, Leader of the House, is threatening retribution if the Lords do their constitutional tasks too thoroughly and unduly delay the Bill.

It will not be easy for the Lords to do their duty by the Bill and still please Mr Foot if the pattern now developing continues through the 83 clauses and 17 schedules.

Perhaps more important than the clauses not reached have been the issues that could not be debated where a clause raised points for discussion.

This week, two important groups of Tory frontbench amendments on the executive functions of the assembly and the surveillance of assembly Bills went undebated while time was taken with backbench amendments to the same clauses.

Similarly, the size of the proposed assembly, while the clause on the time of the election and term of office of assembly members went through without debate.

Another debate that never took place was planned for Tuesday night on Liberal proposals to give taxation powers to the Scottish assembly.

Other clauses passed without debate after four days in which the House has reached clause 22, are:

Clause 6, procedure for fixing by-election dates; Clause 7, date of first meeting of assembly to be decided by Secretary of State; Clause 8, procedure for assembly election of a presiding officer; Clause 10, persons not disqualified from assembly membership because of being peer or being ordained as a minister of religion; Clause 11, disqualification effect to be decided by Secretary of State; Clause 12, procedure for claiming that a person should be disqualified; Clause 13, oath of affirmation; Clause 14, resignation from assembly; Clause 16, defamatory statements; statements in assembly proceedings and documents published under assembly authority to be privileged; Clause 17, corruption to be covered by Prevention of Corruption Act.

## Taxpayers may have to foot IRA funeral bill

From Christopher Walker  
Belfast

Controversial legal moves are under way in Northern Ireland which, if successful, will mean that the British tax payer will have to pay for the military-style funeral given last year to Mrs Maire Drumm, former vice-president of Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

Mrs Drumm, a Belfast woman renowned for her fierce republican oratory, was murdered in October last year by gunmen posing as doctors as she lay in hospital in Belfast. No one has been charged with the killing.

The funeral was one of the most elaborate held in the city, with a procession of more than two thousand mourners led by a traditional IRA colour party. Five men in black berets and dark glasses fired a shot over the tricolour-draped coffin before disappearing into the crowd.

Lawyers acting for Mrs Drumm's husband, James, also a prominent republican, are confident that the Government will have to meet the funeral expenses under the terms of the Criminal Injuries Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1968.

The Northern Ireland Office has denied liability in response to a general compensation claim on behalf of Mr Drumm, but yesterday Mr Paschal O'Hara, a Belfast solicitor, said he would be launching a court case in the new year to recover the funeral expenses.

The Government has not already made an offer, he said. "Mrs Drumm was a member of a legitimate organisation when she was shot dead. It was clearly a criminal act."

Lawyers believe that the section of the Act that will play a crucial part in the legal argument when the case comes to court will be that which states: "Regard must be taken of all relevant circumstances, including any provocative or negligent behaviour of the victim."

## County advised to sell farms

Derbyshire County Council is being recommended by its policy subcommittee to sell its farmhouses, cottages and smallholdings.

The subcommittee believes they no longer act as a gateway to farming for young people, although the Ministry of Agriculture views the widespread disposal of county council smallholdings as damaging to the industry.

## More race advisers

Twelve new race relations employment advisers are to be appointed in the next six months, bringing the total to 26.

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## HOME NEWS

## MPs say hospital doctors' judgment should be subject to Ombudsman's inquiry

By John Koger  
Health Services Correspondent

Against strong arguments from the medical profession, a Commons select committee reviewing hospital patients' complaints has recommended that issues involving a doctor's clinical judgment should be referred to the Health Service Ombudsman (the Ombudsman).

The British Medical Association said yesterday that the move would be detrimental to patients' treatment. The committee's report could not, however, be taken as a sign of a general move to subject doctors' clinical judgment to a procedure which would not lead to a right of appeal, but would produce an adverse defensive attitude among doctors.

Nevertheless the profession is likely to look carefully at the proposals, which would do away with ad hoc inquiries by health authorities and provide a simple, straight forward system of complaint in every hospital. The committee said it expected the BMA and the royal colleges to be immediately concerned in nominating advisers to the commission.

There will be consultations with all interested organizations on the proposals. Between 7,000 and 8,000 hospital patients' complaints a year are wholly or partly concerned with a doctor's clinical judgment.

The select committee was asked to consider hospital complaints procedures and their possible reference to the Ombudsman after the medical profession opposed a proposal by the Davies Committee on Hospital Complaints to set up investigating panels to consider matters of clinical judgment.

Under the terms of the committee's recommendation, the Ombudsman would be concerned to preserve clinicians from unfair criticism based on hindsight as with the concerns of patients and relatives. It said it could not accept the view of some doctors that clinical judgment ought to be totally immune from evaluation.

The health ombudsman rejects about ninety cases a year at present because they involve clinical judgment outside his jurisdiction. About half of all hospital complaints are wholly or partly concerned with clinical judgment.

The committee proposed that the draft code for handling complaints should be simplified placing the emphasis on listening carefully to a patient's or relative's concern, and promptly.

When a dissatisfied complainant wanted to pursue the matter the district administrator or a senior officer should deal with it on behalf of the area health authority. Health authorities should not set up ad hoc inquiries into complaints. In the most serious cases the Secretaries of State should continue to order inquiries under the relevant sections of the health services Acts.

All other cases not resolved at once or by the district administrator should be referred to the ombudsman by the complainant or by the area health authority. The commissioner's role should not be to criticize actions or judgments but, even if they turned out to be mistaken, were reasonable in the light of knowledge and information at the time. But if

anyone had suffered injustice through actions or judgments that were unreasonable in all circumstances he should recommend appropriate action and should try to ensure that useful lessons for the future should be drawn.

The report, which did not deal with the family doctor service, appeals by psychiatric patients against detention or dismissal of NHS staff, said that, considering the numbers of patients, treatments and consultations, relatively few formal complaints were made about hospital care. In 1976 there were almost 15,000 written complaints in England—about 0.3 per cent of inpatient cases.

But it said it would be wrong to be complacent because the number and rate of complaints had been growing slowly but steadily. "While we hope that the American explosion of malpractice litigation will never happen here, a change in public opinion cannot be ruled out and might lead to a much more active pursuit of legal remedies."

Arrangements for complaints were complicated, fragmented and slow, it said. Most people did not understand how to pursue a complaint because there were so many different routes. The view of community health councils was that most people were totally bewildered by the maze of avenues open to them. In difficult cases, almost always with a clinical element, inquiry procedures had been disquieting, mostly because ad hoc committees operated in a non-judicial way, to the medical profession's grave concern about repeated

inquiries over the same ground and about the hearing of accusations of professional negligence or misconduct without legal safeguards, was well founded.

Procedures left many complaints dissatisfied, with a feeling of being fobbed off. In matters outside the ombudsman's jurisdiction, health authorities found themselves defendant and judge and were uneasy that thereby justice was not seen to be done.

Nurses had supported the view that clinical judgment should be open to review. The committee concluded that where a patient alleged negligence and sought damages litigation was the right course. In many other cases the advantage lay with a more flexible, faster and more confidential and useful form of inquiry, provided it was scrupulously carried out.

The health commissioner's office met the requirements. He would need to be scrupulous in protecting defendants from unwarranted attack, based on unrealistic expectations and hindsight. A main concern would be to try to help the NHS learn from every incident.

The committee said it was deeply concerned about abuse of the ombudsman's jurisdiction by a complainant as a "dry run" before litigation. One of the many difficulties of the commissioner's task would be to minimize that danger. First report from the Select Committee on the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: Independent review of hospital complaints in the NHS (Cmd Paper 45, Stationery Office, £5.60).

Disagreement on how to handle disrupted children  
Value of special units in doubt

By Our Education Correspondent

Withdrawal units for disturbed or disruptive pupils may make the return to normal classes more difficult for the child who has attended the unit. That is suggested in a report published yesterday in *Concern by the National Children's Bureau* based on a year's observation of such a unit at an unidentified junior school.

Eight pupils at the school, who were considered too withdrawn or disruptive for full-time attendance in normal classes, were placed in a special class in a building in the corner of the school playground and taught by a special teacher.

Carolyn Okell Jones, project officer and author of the report, says: "The class was so dissimilar to that of a normal school that it appeared to be conditioning the children to completely different patterns, with its irregular attendance throughout the week, the late morning start and early afternoon closure, the unstructured sessions and wide range of

activities from which children could choose at will."

Education authorities disagree on the aims and methods of running withdrawal units for disruptive children, although many now operate them. There has been little evaluation of their work, the report says.

The study showed differences of opinion between the education and social services in the authority concerned, and even between senior education officials and the special class teacher, on how to tackle the underlying causes of the pupils' difficulties in normal classes.

Social workers were found to concentrate on improving conditions for the pupils' families, but they often failed to tell the teacher of important plans. Education officials cautioned the teacher to stick to classroom issues and to avoid becoming involved in the children's home life.

The teacher, however, found it impossible to operate on the basis that the pupils' difficulties ended at the school gate. She therefore felt under pressure to act as a family therapist without having any formal training or official support, and often in her own time, the report says.

It calls for better communication between education and social services of mutually useful information on pupils and their families.

The report recommends that behavioural difficulties should be identified at the earliest possible time, preferably before the child goes to school. There should also be special screening of pupils at "high risk" periods, for example when they transfer from one school to another, it says.

Recent research has shown that violent and disruptive behaviour is commoner in secondary than in primary schools, among boys than among girls, in urban than in rural areas, and among low-ability disadvantaged pupils. On average only 4 per cent of pupils are seriously disruptive in class, with a further 10 per cent occasionally disruptive, according to one study. *Concern* (National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakely Street, London, EC1, 6SP).

## £457m goal for 'tarnished' British Airways

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

After a "disastrous" summer for British civil aviation, the reputation of British Airways has become tarnished and standards have slipped, Mr. Ross Stainton, deputy chairman of the airline, said yesterday. Launching a quality and reliability plan designed "to put a smile back into British Airways," he told his 55,000 staff: "To recover and resume expansion, we simply have to regain our lost customers: not just win their custom, but win their confidence again."

Mr. Stainton has set a winter target for the airline of £457m from 6,500,000 passengers and 100,000 tonnes of freight and mail. The plan is to improve flight punctuality, baggage handling and telephone answering. Ideas from staff for improvements will earn awards of up to £500.

During the summer the airline's passengers suffered through an engineering strike, a stoppage by air traffic control assistants, and a shortage of aircraft when cracks were found in Trident 3 wings.

## In brief

## Speeding on the motorways

More than a third of all car drivers on motorways exceed the 70 mph speed limit, but the overall speed of cars on motorways last autumn was the same as in 1973, a report by the Government's Transport and Road Research Laboratory states. It says petrol prices are the most important factor in restraining speed.

## Fewer trees for Christmas

Fewer Christmas trees will be available for sale this year, the Forestry Commission said yesterday. Ten years ago there was a decline in demand for natural trees that resulted in a reduction in planting.

The commission is to open more than thirty forest centres selling trees direct to the public at prices between about £1 and £3.

## Further remand for MP's wife

Mrs Jane Litterick, estranged wife of Mr Thomas Litterick, Labour MP, was further remanded on bail for two weeks at Marylebone Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, accused of causing criminal damage by fire.

Mrs Litterick, aged 44, of Quarry Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, is accused of causing criminal damage at the home of Miss Pat Healy, social services correspondent of The Times.

## Accelerated retirements drain police forces

By Alan Hamilton

Police forces throughout Britain are rapidly losing experienced officers through accelerated retirement, a trend likely to continue at least until the end of next year.

The departure of many long-serving men of all ranks is disclosed in a review of the annual reports of chief constables carried out by the Christian Economic and Social Research Foundation, whose chairman is the Dean of Westminster, Dr Edward Carpenter. The drain is a result of police officers' being able to count war service as years of service towards a police pension.

By no means all officers who find themselves approaching pensionable age are in the senior ranks, so that the impact is directly on the uniformed branch and the patrol duties, the review says. It adds that the loss comes "just when society has taken one of those lurches into violence and

anarchy that beset some generations." The Chief Constable of Northumbria, quoted in the review, said there were 391 assaults on his officers last year and that the younger a policeman was, the more likely he was to be assaulted. The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire said that last year he had difficulty in replacing natural wastage, far less build up his manpower; some of his officers were leaving after 25 years' service.

The Chief Constable of Derbyshire reported that probationary constables made up a fifth of his force and almost two fifths of its uniformed ground cover. A survey of 31 police districts shows that last year 3,200 officers retired on pension and 2,769 resigned. The wastage amounted for nearly 7 per cent of manpower.

The reports estimate that between last year and 1979, 15 per cent of all policemen will seek retirement, two thirds from uniformed branches.

## Building pickets fined after £30,000 trial

From Our Correspondent  
Rhyl

Three North Wales building pickets were convicted at Mold Crown Court on Wednesday for their part in an incident at Prestatyn on Good Friday during a dispute at Pontin's Holiday Village after an eight-day trial estimated to have cost £30,000, before Judge Hughes.

Frederick Parkinson, aged 39, of Sycamore Drive, Chester, said to have thrown the first two rocks that smashed the windscreen of a strike-breaking lorry, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, for criminal damage, and fined £75 for threatening behaviour, with £52 costs and £80 compensation. George Barry-Corag, aged 36, of Llywpi Drive, Connahs Quay, said to be the pickets' leader, was fined £75 for threatening behaviour, with £75 costs, Nicholas Hewitt, aged 26, of Victoria Avenue, Prestatyn, was fined £50 for criminal damage, £75 for threatening behaviour, with £65 costs and £80 compensation.

Thomas Brian Williams, aged 38, of Llywpi Elwy, St Asaph, and William Evans, aged 30, of Alfray-Pontre, Halkyn, were acquitted of threatening behaviour.

## Call to put more British fish in tins

By Hugh Clayton

Metal Box, which makes most of the tins used in the British food industry, wants to increase the consumption of tinned fish from home waters.

Despite the loss of traditional fisheries through excessive catching, the home waters team with species sold in tins in Britain. Yet nine tenths of the 350 million tins of fish eaten every year are imported.

Mr Michael Keating, a marketing manager with Metal Box said in London yesterday that although mackerel is one of the cheapest and commonest fish caught near Britain, most of the tinned mackerel we eat comes from Japan. "At the moment we get most of our mackerels from South Africa," he said, "but we have an adequate supply off the Cornish coast."

Japanese mackerel was becoming scarce because catches had been so great that the species had been unable to replace itself. Moreover, ECU rules meant that a tariff of 22p in the pound was added to prices of tinned fish that came to Britain from outside the Community.

Business diary, page 23

## Mentmore inquiry may lead to reforms, peer says

By George Clark

The Mentmore sale should never have taken place, and the Government and the Treasury must bear the blame," Lord Perth, a former Conservative minister and former chairman of the Reviewing Committee on Export of Works of Art, told the Commons Estimates Committee in a memorandum submitted on Wednesday.

He suggested that a committee should be appointed to make an independent inquiry into the whole affair, not with a view to apportioning blame for the past but to examine the respective roles of the Treasury, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Education and Science. He believed it could recommend reforms of government machinery for saving Britain's historic houses, big and small, and works of art in general.

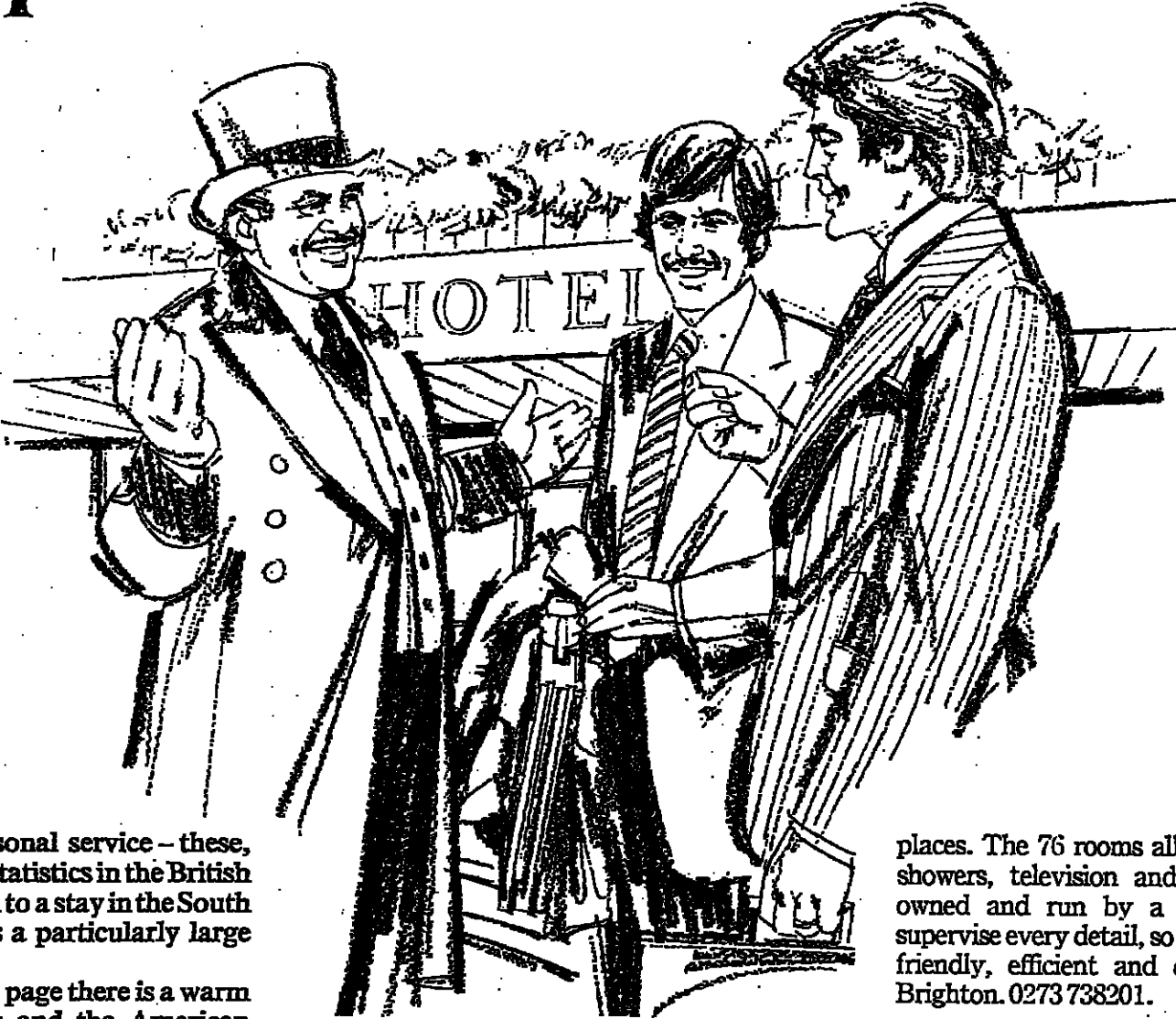
"In particular, they could recommend who should decide, and how, what it is to be accepted for the nation in lieu of death duties or other taxes, or saved by direct government grants or the use of the National Land Fund," he said. "Today it is wrapped in mystery and the public has no idea where the power of decision lies or how best to bring influence to bear."

The select committee is examining the National Land Fund and also received submissions yesterday from the Commons all-party Heritage Committee, the Bow Group, Mr Hugh Jenkins, Labour MP for Putney and a former minister responsible for the arts, Mr Jasper More, Conservative MP for Ludlow, and Mr Robert Cooke, MP for Bristol, West, chairman of the Conservative backbench arts and heritage committee.

The all-party group, in its memorandum, submitted that the Mentmore crisis and later crises over the two pictures by Stubbs at the Tate Gallery, the Bellini, the Warwick Castle Canzonetto, and the Warwick coronation portrait of Queen Elizabeth all pointed to the need for a national contingency fund to assist organizations such as the National Trust, or national and provincial museums to step in when heritage properties, or works of art of great national importance, were to be sold.

The MPs urged that the fund should be reconstituted as the National Heritage and Land Fund and that, over a period of five years, it should be restored to at least its original sum (£50m).

## The American Express Card samples some southern comfort



Comfort, good food, personal service—these, plus the highest sunshine statistics in the British Isles—give a special charm to a stay in the South of England, where there's a particularly large choice of good hotels.

At the five hotels on this page there is a warm welcome waiting for you and the American Express Card.

## The Bramley Grange Hotel, Bramley

A lovely country house with its own 20 acres of Surrey round it, and a well-deserved reputation for hospitality, good food and personal service. The 40 bedrooms all have television and telephones, most have private bathrooms. The restaurant, overlooking rhododendrons and azaleas, has a menu which is excellent in both quality and variety. Being a free house, there's an exceptional selection of drinks. Golf, boating, racing and National Trust mansions are within easy reach. For a business lunch, a quiet weekend, a conference or a dinner party, there's nowhere quite like the Bramley Grange. Bramley, nr. Guildford, Surrey. Bramley 3434.

## The Montcalm, London

Elegance, panache, good humour and appreciation of haute cuisine—these were the qualities of the French nobleman Montcalm. And these are the qualities of the hotel named after him. Here you'll find the best of all worlds: Georgian architecture and modern comfort: surroundings inspired by the age of elegance, interpreted to suit the taste of today—a balanced combination of antiques and specially designed reproduction furniture; English and international cuisine; suites where spiral staircases lead from the drawing room to the bedroom above—unique in a London hotel. The Montcalm is a hotel that is contemporary in its efficiency and traditional in its impeccable standards of service. Great Cumberland Place, London W1. 01-402 4288.

porary in its efficiency and traditional in its impeccable standards of service. Great Cumberland Place, London W1. 01-402 4288.

## The Sheraton Park Tower Hotel, London

You can't miss this splendid hotel. It's 18 storeys high, circular with glare-proof windows—and beautiful views across Hyde Park. The 295 guest rooms are extra large and luxurious, with colour television, individual air and heat controls, and 24 hour room service. You can choose between several restaurants and bars—the Rotunda Cocktail Bar, Le Café Jardin, a coffee shop-restaurant which is open 24 hours a day, the Trianon haute cuisine restaurant, plus three private luncheon and dining rooms. It's the peak of hotel living! 101 Knightsbridge, SW1. 01-235 8050.

## The Norfolk Continental Hotel, Brighton

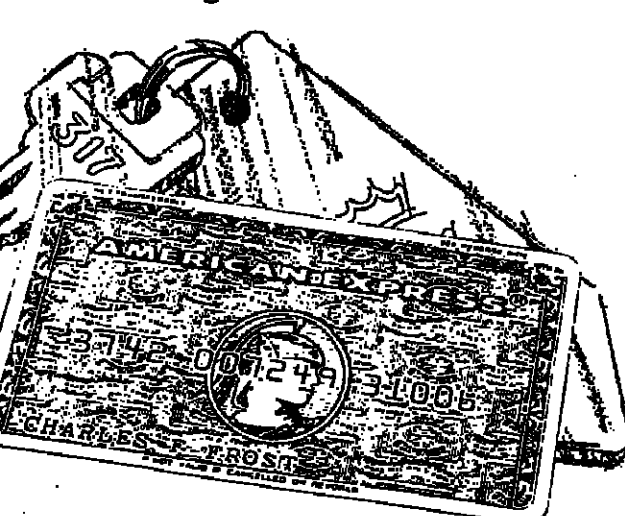
At this magnificent hotel facing the sea, you'll find the ultimate in luxury, in surroundings, food, wine and service. Original chandeliers light the pillared Regency hall with its graceful staircase and the splendid Crystal Room, where superb food is served in golden surroundings. There's also an informal coffee shop overlooking the sea, an American Bar with a terrace for fine weather, and the 19th century Mews Bar with its English pub atmosphere—one of Brighton's most popular meeting

places. The 76 rooms all have private baths and showers, television and radio. The Norfolk is owned and run by a family, who personally supervise every detail, so the service is particularly friendly, efficient and courteous. Kings Road, Brighton. 0273 738201.

## The Inn on the Park, London

More individualistic than most of London's large modern hotels. Where else would you find a balcony for each of the 228 bedrooms, or furnishing which includes specially woven carpets? It also has an unequalled position, on an "island" overlooking both Green Park and Hyde Park. There's a comfortable lounge, where you can have tea and snacks, and a pleasant restaurant with a view of a pretty garden and a fountain playing. The hotel has its own garage. Hamilton Place, Park Lane, W1. 01-499 0888.

If you're not yet enjoying the many benefits of carrying the Card—like signing for bills at hotels, restaurants, stores and travel offices the world over—pick up an application form. They're at all these hotels, Lloyds Banks and American Express Travel Offices; or you can call direct on Brighton 693555.



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HOME NEWS

# Post Office chairman urges battle against declining standards

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Post Office Corporation, yesterday urged resumption of a Sunday letter service and a cheap postage rate for next Christmas.

At the end of his first month as head of the corporation, he called on Post Office staff to lead a battle against the general decline in standards and services.

Sir William said he was impressed with the experience, expertise, technical professionalism and loyalty of most employees. "I now want to see that harnessed to improve our service to customers. That is crucial," he said.

In reversing downward trends he would "not allow anyone to think in terms of increasing prices unless all other avenues have been explored and exhausted."

"Neither will I allow reductions in service without full regard to the damage this can do to customer relationships. I want the Post Office to consider again the kind of letter service which could be provided on Sunday... perhaps even a review of the whole question of weekend services".

He wanted codes of practice that were really helpful to customers. "I want us to look in real terms about the possibility of a cheap postage rate for Christmas, 1978. I want

## Teachers wary on accountability

By Diana Geddes

Teachers are wary of government moves to promote the accountability of schools by extending the testing and assessment of pupils according to an editorial in *Secondary Education*, the journal of the National Union of Teachers, published today.

While supporting a growth in the assessment and testing of pupils under teachers' control, it says assessment and accountability should be kept separate.

# Acid gushes into river after fatal M1 crash

From Our Correspondent Northampton

The river Nene was polluted with hydrochloric acid yesterday after a fatal motorway crash involving a tanker. Two people were killed and seven others injured in the crash on the M1 near Watford Gap.

The 4,000 gallon tanker was involved with six other vehicles in a multiple accident on the northbound carriageway, causing the acid to gush into a stream at the rate of 10 gallons a minute.

Part-time firemen tried to dilute the acid, but soon dead fish were seen in the stream and the Nene.

Anglian Water Authority experts built a dam and a lime filter to try to kill off traces of the acid, but could not stop the river pollution. Domestic water supplies were declared safe. Farmers were warned to keep livestock away from the water for at least a week.

Five policemen were treated in hospital for the after-effects of the fumes. The driver of the lorry that crashed into the tanker was in danger from the fumes while firemen worked for two hours to free him.



Hill memorial: Mrs Bette Hill, widow of Graham Hill, who was killed in an aircraft crash two years ago, receiving a cheque for £110,000 from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of the Graham Hill Appeal Fund, at a dinner at Guildhall, London, last night. The money will pay for a rehabilitation centre for the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, at Stanmore.

# Move to end students' Jewish-Arab conflict

By Annabel Ferriman

Feelings are likely to run high this weekend when the Jewish-Arab conflict in the universities is discussed at the National Union of Students conference in Blackpool, which opens today. Because of decisions by some students' unions to ban Jewish societies from the Union of Jewish Students and the General Union of Palestinian Students that debates around the issues raised in the Middle East conflict "should take place within a free and open atmosphere."

"No limitations on the rights of Jewish or Palestinian students or Jewish or Palestinian societies, whether they are religious, political or social groupings, should be commended," they say. Both the societies pledge themselves to work with the NUS.

But those promises alone are not enough, according to Miss Susan Shuman, the NUS president. "The Palestinian students have reached a decision nationally that they will not discriminate against Jewish societies. We respect their sincerity, but their

between them might muster 200 votes. On that showing the amendment would scrape through the 700-delegate conference.

An agreement designed to lessen campus conflict is announced today in the NUS newspaper *National Student*. The union has no declarations from the Union of Jewish Students and the General Union of Palestinian Students that debates around the issues raised in the Middle East conflict "should take place within a free and open atmosphere."

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But those promises alone are not enough, according to Miss Susan Shuman, the NUS president. "The Palestinian students have reached a decision nationally that they will not discriminate against Jewish societies. We respect their sincerity, but their

supporters might not respect their decision."

She said fears that the amendment might increase the power of the executive were ill founded because any decision to expel a students' union would always be taken to the national conference. Others thought it interfered with the autonomy of individual unions.

"We are not infringing their democratic rights," she said. "What we are saying is, if they make a decision we consider discriminatory we have the democratic right to say we do not want them as members."

The constitutional changes were unnecessary, according to Mr. Mohammed Ali-Khosh, president of the General Union of Palestinian Students. Only two students' unions, those of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and the Polytechnic of North London, still had policies banning Jewish societies from union facilities.

Because of persuasion from Palestinian students, Salford

University had reversed its decision to deprive its Jewish society of students union support and that could be effected elsewhere if the NUS and the Palestinians got together, he said.

The Union of Jewish Students was pleased that the NUS wanted powers to suspend unions that discriminated. Mr. Moshe Foreman, its president, said yesterday that the ban on Jewish students' activities in union premises set a dangerous precedent.

Although only two unions still had policies of restricting Jewish societies, eight had passed motions equating Zionism with racism. They were the polytechnics of Middlesex, Lancashire, Teesside and Central London, Essex University, and the university colleges of Swansea, Bangor and Cardiff.

Those motions, combined with the NUS policy of not allowing a platform to racist and fascist speakers meant that those institutions could effectively refuse speaking rights to any Zionist speaker.

# MP's Bill to regulate house agents

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Mr. Bryan Davies, Labour MP for Ealing, North, who came third in the ballot for private member's Bills, announced last night that he would sponsor an estate agents Bill.

The Bill, whose second reading is due to be debated on February 3, will require estate agents to keep clients' deposits in separate accounts, join a bonding scheme to protect the deposits, and make public their charges before accepting instructions.

It would also empower the Director-General of Fair Trading to close the business of any estate agent guilty of malpractice. The Federation of Master Builders has told the Government that it would encourage owner-occupation if it must look urgently at the heavy costs involved in buying and selling property.

WEST EUROPE

# Hospitals hit by power cuts as left-wing unions strike in protest against Barre austerity

From Ian Murray Paris, Dec 1

France's left-wing trade unions called their members out on general strike for the second time this year in protest against the austerity measures of the Barre Government. Both the main unions, the Communist CGT and the Socialist CFTD, were involved, as was the militant teachers' union, the FEN.

There were fewer strikers this time than during the last stoppage on May 24 when an estimated 10 million joined the protest. According to the employers' organisation, an average of only 10 per cent failed to report for work today in the private sector, and it was impossible to tell how many of those did not turn up because of the difficulties in getting to work.

There were a higher proportion of strikers in the public sector, which is much more unionised. About 80 per cent of teachers were on strike, although child minders were at work to look after the schoolchildren. The other main target was the electricity supply, and there were many cuts throughout the day, including several affecting hospitals and clinics.

In Paris, which was the worst-hit area, there was no mail and

no newspapers, but most of the buses and 70 per cent of the underground trains were running.

The unions, predictably, called the day a successful protest. The employers, equally predictably, claimed it had failed.

The political motivation of the stoppage had the paradoxical effect of keeping the left-wing parties completely out of the picture. With the elections looming and the Communists and Socialists still far from reaching an electoral agreement, the party leaders clearly did not want to be involved in a strike that failed.

The most successful part of the strikers' day, apart from the electricity cuts, was probably the demonstration in Paris. Demonstrators began assembling in the Place de la Nation at 10 am and two hours later left in procession on the traditional march to the Place de la République, two miles away straight up the Boulevard Voltaire. They marched 15 abreast, chanting and singing under their banners, and the whole parade went on until nearly 3 pm.

Police estimated the crowd to be 35,000 strong but the unions' estimate was that 200,000 took part.

Le Havre, Dec 1.—The crew of a French Channel car ferry today barricaded themselves on board an incoming British boat for two hours in protest against a plan by Normandy Ferries to dismiss 29 of them or operate the ship *Leopard* under the British flag from January 1.

The French crew, who came out on strike yesterday, used cars to block the unloading ramp of the Viking Venture, owned by Townsend-Thoresen, when it arrived from Southampton.

The men voted to stop work for 24 hours after their union leaders rejected terms for keeping the *Leopard* under the French flag which would have involved the loss of 29 jobs among the 134-man crew. Last night, the strikers delayed the landing of passengers from the *Leopard's* sister ship *Wagon* which sails under the British flag.

Normandy Ferries decided initially to transfer the *Leopard* to the British flag because the fall in the pound had led to an increase in its operating costs as a French boat. In face of union protests the company agreed that ship could remain French provided the unions accepted a reduction in the size of the crew.—Agence France-Press.

# Talks start on closing EEC-Japan trade gap

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Dec 1

Japan and the EEC opened two days of trade talks here today with the perennial problem of the growing Japanese surplus on trade with the community at the centre of the stage.

It is estimated that the Nine will have a deficit in trade with Japan this year of \$5,000 million (\$2,200 million) compared with \$4,200 million in 1976. EEC exports to Japan this year are not expected to cover more than 39 per cent of the value of its imports from the community, compared with 43 per cent last year and 67 per cent in 1973.

This very low import coverage ratio is even more worrying to the EEC than the size of the deficit. The European Commission, negotiating on behalf of the Nine, is sceptical about the promises of renewed efforts by Japan, following the recent Cabinet reshuffle, to make access easier for European products.

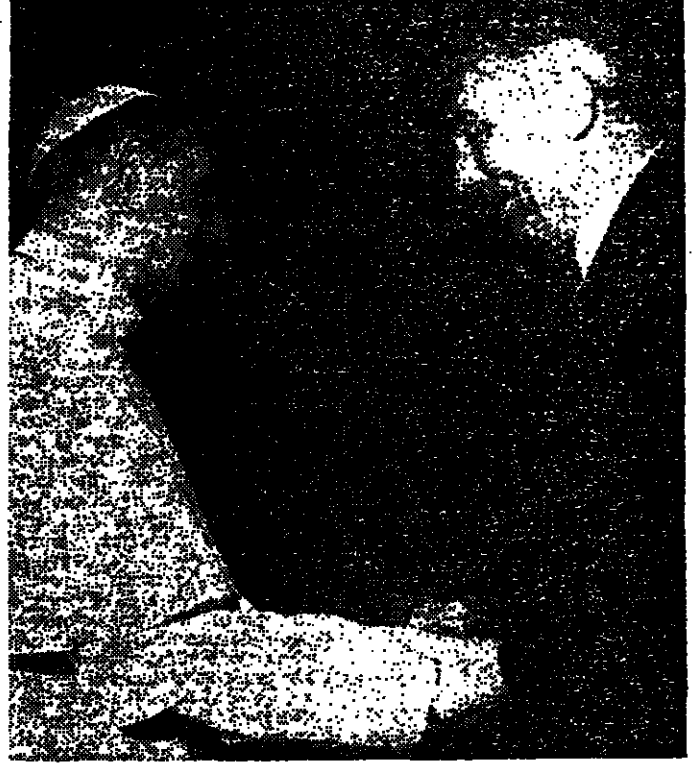
One of the EEC's main complaints is that manufactured goods account for no more than 20 per cent of Japan's imports, a trading closer to that of a developing than a developed country. European products that are competitive with domestically-produced Japanese goods often face almost insuperable administrative and non-tariff barriers, it is claimed.

Among the European products for which the Commission considers there is a potential, but which it unreservedly recommends Japan to remove, are cars, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, processed agricultural goods and footwear.

There is a suspicion in Brussels that such measures as may be taken by the Japanese will be used to design to improve access for imports of American raw materials and agricultural goods. The United States has been bemoaning very recent Japanese "one EEC official said.

Mr. Hiromichi Miyazaki, a Deputy Foreign Minister leading the Japanese delegation, told Commission officials that Japan's announcement this week in Geneva of support for a 40 per cent cut in industrial tariffs over eight years was evidence of its political good will.

He said the rapid rise in the value of the yen had reduced Japan's competitiveness.



Vatican handshake between the Pope and Mr Giersek.

# Pope offers support to Poland

From Peter Nichols Rome, Dec 1

The Pope had an unexpectedly protracted audience today with Mr. Edward Giersek, the Polish leader, during which he said that the Roman Catholic Church was ready to make its contribution to the progress of Polish society.

He told Poland's Communist Party chief "For itself, the Catholic Church does not ask privileges but only the right to be itself and the possibility to carry out unhampered its mission."

The two men were together for an hour and a quarter in the private library. Few audiences involving communist personalities can have brought out such personal cordiality.

The Pope recalled his months spent as a young priest in the Warsaw nunciature (his was in 1923). The mere fact that his guest was from Poland was, he said, sufficient to make him welcome.

For his part, Mr. Giersek spoke of the profound respect which the Polish people felt towards the Pope, whose goodness is recognised by the temporaries and will be appreciated by history.

Outside the Vatican, Mr. Giersek was still expressing himself as well satisfied. On specific points, he was more guarded. There was no question, he said, of establishing diplomatic relations between Poland and the Holy See in the near future. He spoke well of Cardinal Wyszyński, the Polish primate, but admitted that "elements of controversy exist, as in any normal family."

This did not mean to say, he went on, that relations were bad. "The Catholic Church and Polish Catholics are together with us in pursuit of one single objective: to contribute to the progress of the common good of the country and peace between peoples."

Mr. Giersek's visit was the first by a leader of the Polish party to the Vatican. This in itself would have given it high importance. It has certainly shown the extent of the need felt by the Polish Government for some degree of collaboration in Poland from the Catholic hierarchy.

At the same time, the Pope, for all his courtesy and natural warmth, was clear in laying down what the church's contribution could and should be and what he felt the church could properly claim in return.

He reminded Mr. Giersek that throughout the thousand years of the church had been conducted in a positive way in the interests of the nation, both in the religious field and outside it.

# Views unaltered by nuclear debate

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Dec 1

Three days of "open discussions" on the role of nuclear power in meeting the EEC's energy needs concluded here today without either side in the debate admitting to any change of opinion on the rightness of its cause. The discussions were organized by the European Commission.

Herr Guido Brunner, the EEC commissioner responsible for energy policy, said it would be hypocritical to pretend that the Commission's support for large-scale investment in nuclear energy, and particularly in the controversial fast-breeder, would be modified overnight by what he had heard. But he believed the discussions had served a useful democratic function by stimulating public debate.

The European Environment Bureau, which put up a number of speakers strongly critical of the Commission's energy policy, accepted that the discussions had been "a partial success". They had shown that it "was possible to have sensible and serious public debate on an extremely controversial issue at a European level."

The bureau, which represents more than 40 environmental organizations, said that it hoped the Commission would show that it had heard as well as listened to what had

been said during the discussions. It was clear that "substantial arguments against the Commission's current energy policy remain unanswered."

The building of fast-breeder reactors should be postponed indefinitely, the bureau said, and there was no reason for further expansion of existing thermal reactors. A "new" must be a combination of policies, including the development of solar, wind and other environmentally acceptable technologies.

The pro-nuclear case was put strongly today by Mr. J. Moore, of Britain's Atomic Energy Authority. Over the last 21 years, he said, nuclear power had simply demonstrated its capability of operating at least as reliably as fossil fuel plants, and in most situations at lower costs.

Current designs of nuclear plants used only 1 per cent of the energy potential of uranium, whereas fast-breeder reactors could use 60 per cent, Mr. Moore said. The prize now within sight was "an energy source in which from one ton of uranium can be produced as much energy as from at least two million tons of coal."

The three days of discussions concentrated on the economic case for nuclear power. The safety and environmental aspects of nuclear energy, and the plutonium fuel cycle associated with fast-breeder development, will be

the main focus of attention at the second session of the discussions planned for the end of the year.

Two broad views emerged during the three days of discussions. On the anti-nuclear side, the Commission's estimates of the cost of electricity from the future energy demand, which were held to be grossly exaggerated. It was further asked how the present commitment of 30 per cent of all research and development expenditure in the energy sector to one technology, the fast-breeder, could be justified.

Inadequate consideration had been given to alternative energy sources, such as sun, wind and wave power. By putting all its "research eggs into the fast-breeder basket", as a British expert put it, the EEC was effectively ruling out other options by starving them of the necessary funds.

The suitability of nuclear power to replace oil and gas was also questioned. Those speakers who supported the Commission saw an inexorably widening gap between the EEC's energy needs and supplies which could only be met by an expanded programme of nuclear-generated electricity. Because the EEC was almost entirely dependent on imports for its supplies of uranium, there was no alternative to fast-breeder development, which would eventually breed their own fuel and make the Community self-sufficient.

On the pro-nuclear side, the Commission's estimates of the cost of electricity from the future energy demand, which were held to be grossly exaggerated. It was further asked how the present commitment of 30 per cent of all research and development expenditure in the energy sector to one technology, the fast-breeder, could be justified.

YOU NEED A GOOD REASON FOR BUYING AN ORIENT QUARTZ CHRONOGRAPH. HERE ARE TWENTY.



# £4m of television equipment unused because of unions

By Kenneth Gooling

At least £4m of new television equipment is lying idle because it has been "blacklisted" by unions. Mr. Robin Scott, deputy managing director of BBC Television, complained yesterday.

Mr. Scott, who was delivering the Shoeburgh Memorial Lecture to the Royal Television Society, said the equipment was unusable because of the refusal of British television companies to use it.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on manning and individual reward," he said, "but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it, compared with what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel people

to give careful examination to the problem, in good time."

Unions must not cloud the issue by using the blocking of new technology unjustifiably as a mere device to secure unwarranted advantage over pay.

Mr. Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC. London Weekend Television, Granada and Anglia were particularly affected.

Anglia, for example, has a number of videotape recorders and lightweight cameras which cannot go into service. Old equipment that had become out-of-date had to be used in its place.

# Son cleared of manslaughter

Peter Jackson, aged 43, accused of killing his elderly mother after learning that she had been unfaithful with a milkman, was cleared of manslaughter yesterday at Winchester Crown Court.

Mr. Jackson, of Queens Grove, Farnborough, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, for assault, which he admitted.

# Health chief is cleared

Mr. Norman Darby, administrator of Somerset Area Health Authority, has been cleared of an allegation that he used the ambulance service for travelling 30 miles on a personal errand.

The accusation was made by the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which said there had been a gross misuse of ambulance resources in the county. An inquiry team said yesterday that there could be no criticism of Mr. Darby or of the ambulance service.

# Brighton lottery suspended

Brighton's town lottery has been suspended after a complaint by an American company that the design of the tickets infringes copyright. The promoter, Securitickets Ltd, said all sales would be stopped until the legal position was clear. The system used in the Brighton scheme was believed to be the first of its kind in Britain.

# Detective jailed

Det. Constable Peter Sandring, aged 26, of Duxton, Northamptonshire, was jailed for six months by Northampton magistrates yesterday for stealing from fellow officers.

# Johnny Walker get bottle ban

The makers of Johnny Walker whisky got an order in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, yesterday, stopping another company from selling whisky in similar bottles.

The temporary order granted to John Walker and Sons Ltd, of St James's Street, London, stops D. R. Allan and Company, of Reform Square, Campbelltown, Strathclyde, selling, offering for sale or exporting whisky that is not Walker's in similar bottles.

# Footballer banned

Roy Rankin, aged 21, the Leeds United footballer, was banned from driving for a year and fined £120 by magistrates at Wetherby, West Yorkshire, yesterday after admitting a drink-driving charge.

# Modernism

Michael Long reviews a new collection of essays on modernism in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today. Lord Todd, O.M., tells Clive Cookson who he still believes it was a mistake to expand the universities, and Professor Max Beloff argues that the University Grants Committee should be abolished.

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## OVERSEAS

### Two leaders close Kappler affair

Rome, Dec. 1—Chancellor Schmidt of West Germany and Signor Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, today reassured each other that the friendship between their two nations was as solid as ever.

The two leaders met in the north Italian town of Velletri for a series of regular inter-annual consultations.

The meeting was originally scheduled for August but was postponed at the request of Signor Andreotti amid the public outcry in Italy over the escape to West Germany of Herr Herbert Kappler, the Nazi war criminal.

Herr Klaus Boelling, the West German Government spokesman, said the two leaders conducted an analysis of West German-Italian relations, East-West disarmament talks and international efforts to fight terrorism.

In an indirect allusion to the Kappler affair, Herr Boelling said the two leaders also decided to close the book on "other issues" that had strained mutual relations.

They agreed that the two nations should step up their cooperation in fighting terrorism, and said that their interior ministers should meet soon to coordinate their efforts.

Bomb attack: The home of a Communist member of Parliament was attacked in Trieste by a bomb on Monday, the latest incident in a wave of political violence that has left two people dead.

The deputy, Signor Antonio Cuffaro, was not at home when the bomb was thrown, but his father, who has an asthma flat, was rescued by firemen.

The violence was touched off by the killing of a young Communist by rightists on Monday in Bari, the port in south-east Italy.

In Palermo, Sicily, where workers staged a 30-minute strike in protest against the killing, a prison warder was shot dead outside his home by a mob of thugs, who said they believed it was a political attack.—Reuters.

### Rhodesia settlement talks to go ahead in Salisbury without Bishop Muzorewa taking part

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Dec. 1

Constitutional talks between the Rhodesian Government and the incoming black nationalist government will begin tomorrow without Bishop Muzorewa and his delegation from the United African National Council.

The bishop has gone into a week's mourning in anger over the killing last week of more than 1,200 guerrillas by Rhodesian security forces in raids on the Chimpeno and Tembeu camps in Mozambique.

The talks will proceed because Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, says there is an urgent need to make progress towards peace in Rhodesia. A Government spokesman said today there could be no further delay.

The other two African nationalist organizations, the Zimbabwe United People's Organization and the Shikongo, would be sending representatives. If the organization with the biggest black following, the UANC, was not represented at the outset, this was unfortunate.

"We could go on for ever with one delay after another, but not this time," the spokesman said. "The talks will start on Friday as announced by the Prime Minister."

The initial meeting will deal with procedural issues and is expected to last for more than an hour tomorrow afternoon at a place yet to be announced. The broad principles of the negotiations are expected to be outlined as agenda items and work then allocated to committees to handle details.

The Government has been preparing for such a conference for some months with much groundwork on constitutional matters being done by an experienced team headed by Mr. George Smith, the Government's Chief legal draftsman.

Mr Smith has already conceded the principle of majority rule, but has refused to concede the other side of the coin, the need for safeguards for

minority groups, which all three factions have accepted. The Shikongo delegation will be headed by Dr. Elliott Gubbish, its vice-president, as the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole is still in the United States.

Senator Chief Chirau will head the Zupco delegation. Dr. David Makoma, publishing secretary of the UANC, said today that Mr Smith's callous disregard for this organization's week of mourning would prejudice the successful outcome of the talks.

If Mr Smith was under the illusion that he was going to use the UANC to manoeuvre a settlement for his purpose, he should think again. No settlement was possible unless it was endorsed by the UANC.

In an interview with the Rhodesian Herald, published today, Mr Smith said that more than anything else in the world he wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. With goodwill and the cooperation of those who felt the same way, there was a real chance of success.

It would not be an easy process and dramatic results could not be expected in the early stages, he said. Asked, in the light of settlement moves, what the objective was of the recent raids into Mozambique, he said the urgent need for talks did not preclude Rhodesia defending itself against attempts by the Patriotic Front to take over the country by force.

The raids had dealt a crippling blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned, as usual, against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had been associated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The settlement initiative, Mr Smith said, involved those who wanted peace, not those who wanted to bring peace to Rhodesia. The Government and the security forces were fighting to achieve that peace.

Bishop Muzorewa's claim that security forces had attacked refugee camps which included large numbers of women and

children was wrong. The camps were defended and the inhabitants were armed terrorists.

Mr Smith said Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front leader, had made it plain that his organization was not in the least interested in peace or having settlement talks. He had been quoted as saying he would set up a communist or socialist regime in Rhodesia. Such a system could be imposed on Rhodesia only by force and Mr Smith said he had no intention of allowing this to happen, as last week's operation clearly showed.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr. Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and militated against peace efforts. Their attitude was clearly shown by the military proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America," he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything we Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticizing the real aggressor."

The British and American contribution toward peace so far has been negligible. All we have had is talk and delay. At least we in Rhodesia are getting to grips with the problem."

Maputo, Dec. 1—Two Belgian airmen have been captured by the Patriotic Front and they were shot down in Tete province, the Defence Ministry said today.

A statement said the aircraft belonged to the Zaire-based company African Lux and that the airmen were on their way from Salisbury to Lubumbashi in Zaire with a consignment of meat when shot down. The aircraft had violated Mozambique airspace twice last month.—Agence France-Presse.

### Sudden Sadat visit to Israel upset Jordan monarch's preparations

### Admiration and annoyance by King Husain

From Edward Mortimer Amman, Dec. 1

King Husain of Jordan today expressed great admiration for Egypt and for President Sadat, but also showed annoyance that Mr Sadat had upset the delicate preparations for the Geneva conference by suddenly announcing his visit to Israel without consulting or informing other Arab leaders.

He himself, he said, would not go to Jerusalem in any foreseeable circumstances.

He repeated that Jordan would not attend any pre-Geneva conference whether in Cairo or New York, unless all the over parties attended, but said he would not take part in any campaign against Mr Sadat either.

Jordan would not take part in any restricted summits such as today's meeting in Tripoli, but would attend an Arab summit conference attended by all Arab states.

Speaking at a press conference in the royal palace, King Husain praised Mr Sadat's "great moral courage" in going to Israel and present-

ing the Arab case there "in a way with which we do not see occurred". It should be "possible for Arab leaders at least to inform each other about actions, which they consider to be in the best interest of the Arab cause." In this case, Mr Sadat's action had come as a total surprise.

On the Cairo conference and on Dr. Waldheim's proposals for a New York conference, King Husain explained there was no point in Jordan attending a meeting which was not attended by "other parties more directly involved than us", ie Syria and the Palestinians.

He also reaffirmed his acceptance of the Rabat Arab summit in 1974 recognizing the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but when asked whether in the event of the PLO refusing to attend the Geneva conference Palestinian interests could be represented by anyone else, he replied: "I believe it is up to the Palestinians to determine what is the best course they should follow." He certainly hoped

the Palestinians would be adequately represented.

The king emphasized repeatedly that President Sadat had gone to Jerusalem entirely on his own responsibility, and added that he could not see "any circumstances under which I could make such a visit."

Mr Sadat had "gone as far as any of us can". He believed that "following the visit, no one in the world can say that the Arabs are not prepared to go to the limit in search of a just and lasting peace."

But, he added, the basis for such a peace was very clear to the Israelis already. He had said for a long time that the decision to make peace was now up to the Israelis, and "up to now I haven't seen any encouraging signs."

He had very serious doubts about the Israeli attitude on the West Bank and Jerusalem, he said, pointing to Mr Begin's statements both before and after President Sadat's visit, and to the announcement of new Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

He had very serious doubts about the Israeli attitude on the West Bank and Jerusalem, he said, pointing to Mr Begin's statements both before and after President Sadat's visit, and to the announcement of new Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

### National Party gains many English-speaking voters

Continued from page 1

a sectional party of English-speakers in Natal.

The day SAP has reason to feel reasonably satisfied as it won three of the seven seats it contested. However its leader, Mr Myburgh Streicher, was ousted by the PPF.

The election was an unmitigated disaster for the ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party. Far from making inroads into the NP's conservative Afrikaans power base, the party was humiliated by mass NP victories and all but two of its candidates lost their deposits.

As expected, the NP won over large numbers of English-speaking voters particularly in lower and middle income areas. These voters had previously supported the UP.

### GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

Party	%	Seats (1974)	Seats (1977)
National	64.8	134 (126)	120
United	—	—	40
New Republic	11.8	10 (25)	—
Progressive	16.7	17 (18)	7
PPF	1.7	3 (6)	—
South Africa	3.2	0 (0)	0
Vacancies	—	1 (2)	—

Note: The South Africa Party was formed at the beginning of 1977 by six MPs who broke away from the United Party. The New Republic Party was formed in September 1977 after the dissolution of the former Progressive and Reform Parties together with six members of the United Party.

Effect on the blacks, page 16

Leading article, page 17

### Rejectionist Arab summit postponed until today

From David Watts Tripoli, Dec. 1

The summit meeting in Tripoli of Arab rejectionist leaders began to take on substance this afternoon with the arrival of President Boumedienne of Algeria and President Assad of Syria.

The arrival of the Iraqi delegation soon afterwards showed, however, that Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, had been only partially successful in persuading Baghdad to support the summit.

President Bakr of Iraq did not come, but sent a delegation of the Revolutionary Command Council, led by Mr Ishaq Yassin Ramadan, as his representative, and including Mr Saddam Hamudi, the Foreign Minister.

The conference was postponed until tomorrow morning because the South Yemen delegation did not arrive in time.

The Iraqis were quickly followed by Mr Arafat himself who brought a strong PLO delegation including Mr Abu Iyad, who is now the military commander of Fatah.

Dr George Habash, the Christian physician and rejectionist hard-liner, flew into an almost informal welcome last night.

Tripoli streets are drenched with cartoons reviling President Sadat. One shows him squatting over a street drain with the Star of David pendant round his neck.

Bus loads of workers moved into Tripoli's main square to hail the summit. As darkness fell carefully rehearsed crowds chanted slogans.

### Thatcher visit to Nato HQ

Brussels, Dec. 1—Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition, today began a two-day visit to Brussels with discussions at Nato headquarters.

Nato sources said Mrs Thatcher was briefed on the military situation in Europe by General Hermans, Zeiner, General Secretary of Nato's Military Committee. She also discussed East-West relations with Dr Joseph Luns, Secretary-General of Nato.

Later Mrs Thatcher visited the NATO Headquarters, near Mons for talks with General Alexander Haig, Nato's European commander. She met his deputy, General Sir Henry Hays, and other members of the British delegation before returning to Brussels, where she will meet EEC officials tomorrow.—Reuters.

### Call for Biko verdict against security police

From Marcel Berlins Pretoria, Dec. 1

A verdict that Steve Biko died as the result of a criminal assault on him by one or more of eight members of the security police in whose custody he was on September 6 and 7 has been called for by Mr Sydney Kentridge, counsel for Mr Biko's family.

He was making his final submission to the magistrate, Mr Marthinus Prins, on the fourteenth day of the inquest into Mr Biko's death on September 12.

Mr Kentridge said the probabilities were that the injuries from which Mr Biko died were inflicted deliberately, unlawfully, and without good cause. Those responsible were guilty of at least the crime of culpable homicide.

He was not submitting that Mr Biko had been killed fully in the sense that whoever assaulted him wanted him to die, but that the person or persons who had beaten him did not care whether he was seriously injured or not.

The inquest had exposed grave irregularity and misconduct in the treatment of a single detainee, Mr Kentridge said. "It has incidentally revealed the dangers to life and liberty involved in the system of holding detainees incommunicado," he added.

"A firm and clear verdict may help to prevent further abuse of the system. If the light of further disquieting evidence before this court, any verdict which can be seen as an exoneration of the Port Elizabeth security police will unfortunately be interpreted as a licence to abuse a helpless people with impunity."

Mr Kentridge said there was no direct evidence that any particular policeman had assaulted Mr Biko. That was because some of the security police had closed their ranks.

Police witnesses had given a "massive false picture," he said. There could be no reason for that unless there was some circumstance connected with

Mr Biko's injuries that the police wanted to hide.

They had not given a satisfactory explanation of how Mr Biko's injuries occurred; indeed, they had given false evidence about the events of September 6 and 7. The inference of guilt was strengthened.

During his four-hour address, Mr Kentridge served his most venomous criticism for two security police officers, Colonel Piet Coosen and Major Harold Snyman, and two doctors who had examined Mr Biko. Dr Ivor Lang and Dr Benjamin Tucker.

The doctors, he said, had joined the security police in the conspiracy of silence about Mr Biko's condition. The relationship of those two district surgeons to Colonel Coosen, the security police chief of the area, "was one of subservience, bordering on collusion."

"Their obvious neglect of their patients' interests and their deference to the requirements of the security police was a breach of their professional duty, which may have contributed to the final result," he said.

Their studied lack of curiosity about Mr Biko's condition could be explained only by their being in active collaboration with the police or by a deliberate decision not to embarrass the police or themselves by asking questions to which the answers were obvious.

The police, perhaps strengthened by their justified confidence that they could rely on the doctors to support them, presented to the court, with "gross impudence," a totally implausible account of Mr Biko's death.

It included "a fanciful description of a struggle, violent in the extreme, in which no blow was struck, a bizarre account of an alleged shamming when to any candid observer a man's progress to his death was being seen and described, and all the while the refusal to acknowledge the head injury."

### Tate & Lyle challenge ATV on S Africa film

By Kenneth Gossling Tate and Lyle, the sugar refiners, are challenging sequences in a film to be shown by Associated Television, the independent television company, as part of a series about life and conditions in South Africa.

At a press conference last night, the company produced affidavits which, it said, proved that people questioned on the company's estate in Natal had given pre-arranged answers.

Mr Kit Hobbay, public relations officer for Tate and Lyle, said that the company had spent four months checking the affidavits which, he added, "and their agreement to withdraw any sequences about us."

"The four documentary films were commissioned by ATV from Mr. Anthony Thomas. The

film crew returned from South Africa in September. The third film in the series, containing the sequences which Tate and Lyle say are damaging to the company, is to be shown on Wednesday week.

ATV agreed last month in correspondence with Tate and Lyle to make certain cuts involving people filmed and interviewed at Illovo, who were not resident here.

But Tate and Lyle say that their affidavits show discrepancies in other interviews, which they were shown in the form of "rushes" (unedited film) early last month.

They therefore want all the sequences removed. ATV have said, however, that it is not possible to give the categorical undertaking sought by Tate and Lyle.

### Swissair first

Hongkong Dec. 1—A Swissair DC10 jet, with a full load of 237 tourists, left Hongkong today for the first commercial chartered flight to China since 1949.

### Soviet rocket tests end

Moscow, Dec. 1—The Soviet Union today announced the completion of its rocket tests in the northern Pacific and said the test zone will be free for navigation from Friday.—AP.

### S Africans held in Swiss cheques case

From Our Correspondent Geneva, Dec. 1

Two South African businessmen are under arrest in Zurich and the other in Geneva, in connection with the theft last month of a large quantity of blank travellers' cheques in Johannesburg.

They are Richard Mitchell, until recently a leading figure in the South African Chambers of Commerce, and Bernard Morris, both in their late 40s.

Mr Mitchell aroused bank cashiers' suspicions in Zurich by seeking to change abnormally large amounts of travellers' cheques in \$100 and \$500 denominations into Swiss francs. Mr Morris was doing the same thing in Geneva when apprehended.

### Bomb learns how Britain copes with terrorists

Anglo-German cooperation in dealing with terrorist activities has been further extended by a visit to London by Dr Hans de Wit, the West German Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

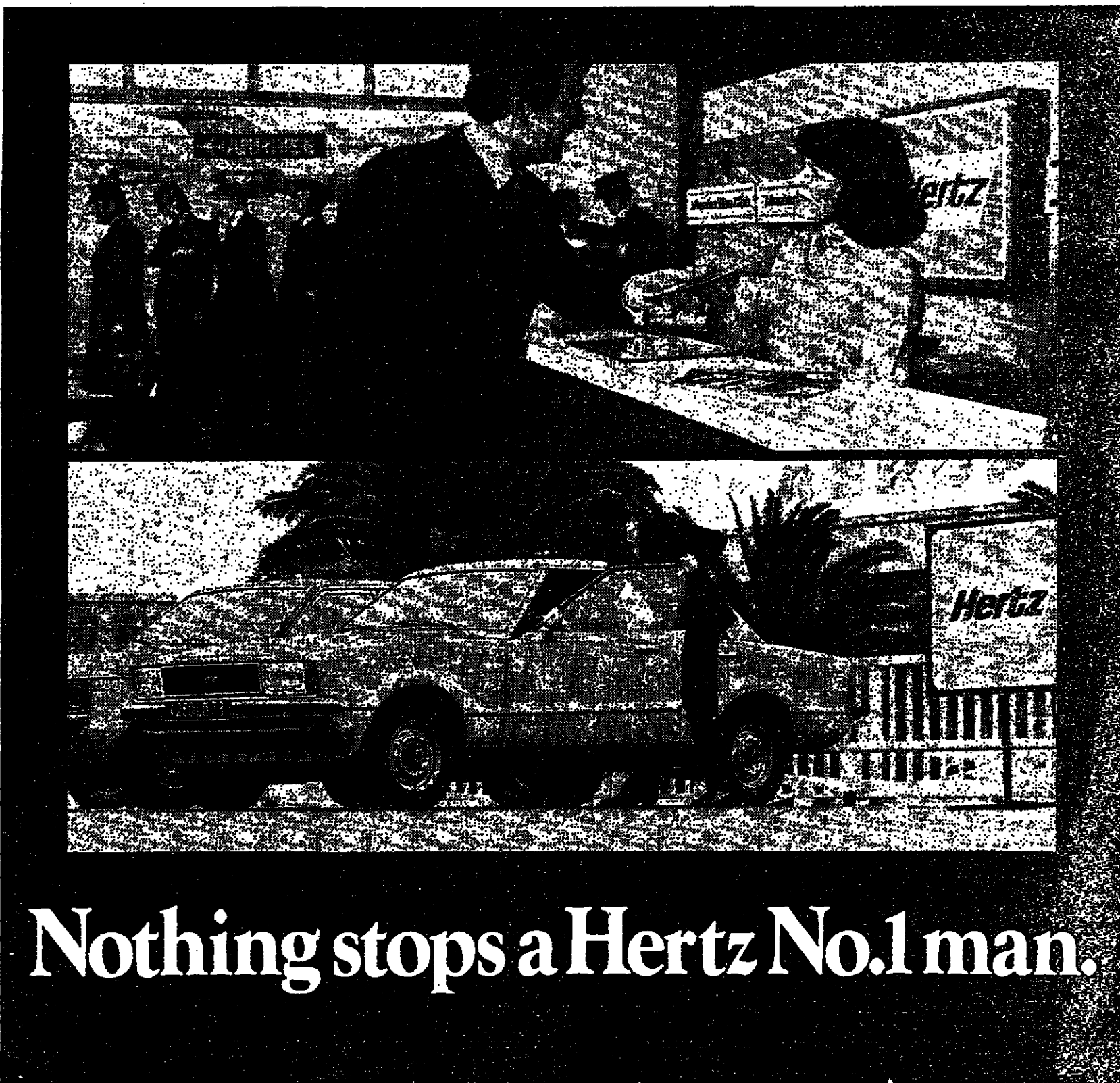
Dr de Wit was particularly interested in British experience on legal matters, such as the procedure of Queen's evidence, and the code of conduct applied by the legal profession in discharging lawyers who fail to meet the standards. He also discussed British practice in cases of artificial feeding of prisoners on hunger strike.

The West German Justice Ministry is anxious to pursue a "middle way" in bringing legislation up to date for handling terrorist offences, Dr de Wit said yesterday.

### German security man charged

From Our Correspondent Bonn, Dec. 1

Herr Karl Dirmhofer, of the West German security service, was charged today and accused of giving the press evidence that its services had been illegally tapping the home of a German nuclear scientist. He was charged with "sabotage against the constitution."



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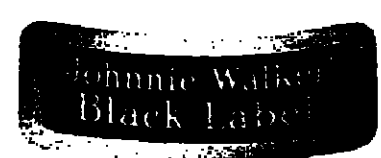


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THE TIMES



May all your Christmases be black.



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# Property



Stone High, at Cobham, Kent.

Ask any estate agent to list the main things a buyer is looking for in a house and the chances are that the word "character" will come pretty high up. Equally, the agent will find it difficult to define precisely what that is, for the word means different things to different people.

More often than not it is merely a preference for an older property in contrast to much of the modern high density "built to a price" estate development. So much so, that any recently built house may be automatically dismissed as being without character, but this carries the matter too far.

There is a steady flow into the property market of modern houses which have been built as one-off constructions, probably architect designed, to meet the needs of particular clients for good, out of the ordinary but workable homes. Such properties are by no means the cheapest on the market, but often combine a good deal of character with the undoubted advantages of high quality modern construction.

One interesting such house in the luxury class is Stone High, in Cobham, Kent, built about 10 years ago and now for sale through Knight Frank and Rutley for something over £100,000.

It is a long, low, "contemporary" building, of "limestone" brick with a vaulted roof and an unusually large chimney. It has two reception rooms, six bedrooms, two dressing rooms, a sauna and a room used as an office.

In addition there is a separate staff or guest flat with a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and a living room, and a feature is a swimming pool heated by solar panels and a greenhouse 50ft long. Further land and stabling are available.

Also in Kent is Owl House, in Mill Lane, Harbledown, near Canterbury, built about seven years ago in the chalet style in which interior layout has been designed to make the most of the hillside position.

Here, there are two large reception rooms with picture windows, a breakfast room, a main bedroom, dressing room and bathroom suite and four further bedrooms.

## In search of a little character

There is a double garage and the character of the terrace provides space for further garaging and a playroom. The garden is about one acre and offers of about £55,000 are being asked through Strutt and Parker, of Canterbury.

Also modern and unusual is High Moor, in Compton Way, Moor Park, near Farnham, Surrey, built in the early 1960s. The accommodation includes two main reception rooms, a combined kitchen and breakfast room and three double bedrooms, all of which are on one floor. Above this is a large roof area more than 31ft long and 12ft wide with a dormer window.

Gardens and grounds are about two acres and offers of about £39,800 are being asked through Messrs May Baverstock, of Farnham.

More modern than it appears is Bents House, at Bradfield Dale, near Sheffield, an apparently Jacobean house which was, in fact built in the early 1930s. Construction is of mellow stone with a stone slate roof, twin gables and mullioned and leaded windows.

Interior features include some good wood paneling and ceilings. Accommodation includes four reception rooms and eight bedrooms, two of which have their own bathrooms. Due to come to auction next week (Dec 6), it is expected to make between £65,000 and £70,000. The agents are Henry Spencer and Sons, of Sheffield.

Centrally old is a property called St Loes, at Amberley, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, which has its origins in the 16th century. The house was used as a charity school before reverting to its use as a private house.

It is built of Cotswold stone around an inner courtyard, and a feature is a medieval hall with a flagstone floor and a gallery reached by a spiral staircase. Accommodation also includes four reception rooms, a library and four bedrooms. In addition, there are three large interconnected attic rooms.

Gardens and grounds run to about 6½ acres and the outbuildings include a detached stone garage block formerly a cottage, which has possibilities for conversion into a residence. The price is £75,000 and the agents are Bernard Thorpe and Partners, of Cheltenham, and Davis, Champion and Payne, of Stroud.

Offers about £70,000 are being asked for a property called Poolfields, at Kinson, Warwickshire, also a house of considerable antiquity. Inside there are many exposed ceilings and wall timbers, and the accommodation includes a reception hall, two further reception rooms with inglenook fireplaces, and five bedrooms.

A feature of the property are the grounds of just over five acres, which include a lake and two large ponds thought possibly to have had monastic origins. There is also a considerable amount of outbuildings, including an open-fronted barn. The property is for sale through Staines, of Leamington Spa.

A pleasant house dating from Regency times is the Old Rectory, at Coln St Denys, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire. It was built about 1810, apparently on the foundations of a much older rectory, and is typical of its period, with a low pitched roof and deep shadow windows.

Construction is of rendered stone under a roof of Welsh blue slate and accommodation includes a drawing room, a kitchen with a dining area, a playroom, a main bedroom and a bathroom suite and five further bedrooms.

Grounds extend to about 4½ acres and have a frontage of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make about £85,000, the property is for sale through Chubb, Brothers and Edwards, of Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Cirencester.

A little older is the Old Vicarage, at Greeton, Northamptonshire, dating in part back to 1745 and built of local stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland Valley and stands in about 1½ acres. Offers of about £42,500 are being asked through Jackson-Stops and Staff, of Northampton.

Gerald Ely

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Now that South Africa's whites have made their decision...

# A landslide for Mr Vorster, but what will the urban blacks get out of it?

Johannesburg, Dec 1  
So Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, won the mandate which he wanted from the country's white electorate. No one can have been surprised by the massive election victory which the National Party won in yesterday's general election. The banner headline on this morning's *Beeld* newspaper saying *UITKLOPPING* (meaning knockout) could have been written weeks ago. But what happens now? Is there any reason to suppose that the lives of the nation's 4.7 million whites or, more important, the 18,000,000 voteless blacks, will be any different in the months ahead than before the election?

When Mr Vorster announced the snap election in September he gave three reasons for the move. These were that he wanted to sort out the situation which had developed among the fragmented opposition parties, the approval for the National Party's new constitutional plan and finally to show the world that South Africa stood united against mounting pressures from abroad. There can be no doubt that he has succeeded in his first aim. The New Republic Party and the South African Party have been hammered and the right-wing Herstigte

Nasionale Party has been ground into the bush. The Progressive Federal Party remains the only effective opposition party but its parliamentary representation will be too tiny to make any real impact on government policies. The Government will claim that the election victory was a mandate for it to go ahead with its constitutional plan, even though the plan (full details of which have not yet been published) was scarcely an election issue. Mr Vorster made it clear this morning that the constitutional proposals "will be implemented in the course of time" although he said that legislation would take some time to be drawn up. Mr Vorster also stated that the electorate, in showing their overwhelming support for the National Party, had "spoken out against foreign interference in South Africa's domestic affairs". This is certainly true as concerns the country's whites and the remaining "non-white" five-sixths will almost certainly get wider if the external pressures on South Africa continue to build up.

Mr Vorster admitted today that these pressures are likely to intensify as a result of his election victory. And so they will unless there is some evidence that South Africa is going to make meaningful changes as far as its "non-white" majority are concerned. Will, therefore, the government make use of its massive majority to speed up the process towards race reform, and in particular offer a new deal to the 8,000,000 urban blacks who are permanent residents in the "white areas" of South Africa? The dismal showing by the HNP in yesterday's election is a sign that the National Party could move ahead much faster in effecting race reforms without shedding any significant support among the party's right wing. There is a theory which has been widely propagated during the election campaign that Mr Vorster, having won his mandate, would embark on the country on a Verligte (liberal) tack. This has become known as "the de Gaulle option", the basis of which is that Mr Vorster (like General de Gaulle during the Algerian war), would fight the election on a right-wing ticket but afterwards would quietly begin to dismantle some of the more objectionable aspects of apartheid.

This line has been taken by a number of Verligte nationalists such as Dr Jan Marais, the head of the South Africa Foundation and in the Durban seat of Pietermaritzburg, who suggested that only by joining the National Party could the party's policies be changed. There can be no doubt that many English speakers decided to throw in their lot with the National Party because they thought it was intended to make meaningful changes. But at no stage did Mr Vorster ever suggest that he had called the election to get a mandate for change. And it would be most uncharacteristic of him or other National Party leaders who have spent the past 30 years building up the edifice of apartheid now suddenly to start dismantling it. The composition of the new government, which will be announced shortly, will give a clearer indication whether any changes can be expected. However, if the Government does stick rigidly to its existing policies it must brace itself not only to expect more pressures from outside and among the black population but also dissent within nationalist ranks. An increasing number of Afrikaner nationalists, particularly in the universities and the press, are unhappy

## The Church of change

The last few years in Latin America, which have seen the arrival of so many military governments, have also seen a remarkable change in the position of the Roman Catholic Church. Not so long ago the Church was regarded as a conservative force, a pillar of the established order. Now it has become in many cases the main opponent of the rightist military regimes, and an advocate of social change. In a number of countries, in which a number of priests have been killed, in Argentina and Brazil, for instance, and in which they have been under pressure in many countries. One of the most striking incidents was an occasion in Ecuador last year when there was a meeting of two archbishops and 15 bishops from several different countries in Riobamba.

As the meeting got under way, a group of armed men broke in, herded the bishops into a vehicle and took them off to Quito, along with 22 priests, five nuns and several laymen. The next day the bishops were expelled from the country on the grounds that they had been interfering in Ecuador's internal affairs and engaging in political subversion.

One of the main objects of the military regimes then to discuss the needs of the many poor people in Latin America, and in particular those of the Indians of Ecuador. The reaction of the Ecuadorian authorities was a clear indication of the hostility that many of the military rulers feel for this relatively new attitude of the Church. In fact, not all members of the Church hierarchy are in sympathy with such an activist approach. The Church is not a homogeneous entity, and in Colombia, for instance, which is the headquarters of the *Comité Episcopado Latinoamericano* (CELAM), there are Church officials who consider that the Church is taking too political a stand in championing human rights and the poor in this way.

In Chile, where the Church as a whole has been particularly active in standing up for human rights in spite of pressures from the junta, Monsignor Tagle, the Bishop of Valparaiso, has declared his support for the military regime. Like conservative-minded priests in other parts of Latin America, he has seen the Church's role as that of opponents of communism, and to be supported for that reason. The relative strength of the various groups will be tested at a meeting of Latin American bishops in Puebla, Mexico, next year. It will be the first such meeting for 10 years, and there are fears among the more progressive members of the Church that the conservatives might succeed in imposing their own commitment to change which has been the official policy in recent years.

In a recent article for the *Catholic Herald*, Father Patrick Rice, an Irish priest who was arrested, tortured and expelled from Argentina, wrote: "There is a growing desire to return to the peace and tranquillity of former days, when the Church did not have the problems it has now. Many feel that these problems all stem from an over-occupation with the temporal, but now it is time to return to the essentially spiritual message of the Gospel."

For them talk about human rights and the poor are certainly not important, but in no way should its destiny be so linked to those issues as to jeopardize its very existence". The progressives have been in the vanguard since a previous conference of Latin American bishops which was held in Medellin, Colombia, in 1968, in the aftermath of the second Vatican Council. The conference adopted a set of documents which set the Latin

American Church on a quite different course from its old support of the status quo. The exercise of political authority and its decisions, they declared, "have as their only end the common good. In Latin America such authority and decisions-making frequently seem to support systems which militate against the common good or which favour privileged groups...".

The lack of political consciousness in our countries makes the educational activity of the Church absolutely essential, for the purpose of bringing Christians to consider their participation in the political life of the nation as a matter of conscience. The documents criticized both liberal capitalism and Marxism, saying that they both "militate against the dignity of the human person". They said that peasants' and workers' unions should acquire "sufficient strength and power"; and they called for "the promotion of the peasants and Indians".

The Medellin meeting took place at a turbulent time in Latin American affairs, when guerrilla groups were active in many different areas, and change was in the air. Since then, the situation has altered again as the military governments have applied their own remedies to the guerrilla problem, and to political opposition in general, and the Church has found itself in the thick of the "struggle".

Church members have challenged the doctrine of "national security", which was initiated in military circles in the United States and has been an influential element in the thinking of the military regimes in Latin America. The doctrine is essentially based on the notion that communism is a threat to the nation, which must be countered by the military.

The military regimes then say want to drag on the Church into backing their campaigns against what is seen as communism, because of the rallying power of traditional Church symbols in Latin America. But this attitude of the military shows no concern for the real aims of the Church, and when the Church refuses to cooperate it is liable to repression.

The more progressive members of the Church have elaborated what is known as "the theology of liberation", which is based on the peculiar characteristics of Latin American development, with its vast numbers of poor people and a relatively small privileged class. The central idea is that the deprived groups should shake off their lethargy and set about helping themselves.

In Brazil, for instance, where much of the pioneer thinking has been done, the Church has not only spoken out against torture, murder and illegality, but has tried to improve local conditions by setting up some 20,000 community centres in villages across the country. It is noticeable that the most outspoken churches have tended to be in countries with some of the worst repression, such as Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. In Chile, the Church initially supported the military takeover of 1973, but soon switched to criticism of the junta for its violation of human rights.

There is elsewhere, the Church has been able to withstand a certain amount of pressure because it too is an institution in Latin America, like the armed forces. Governments have not wanted to move directly against the Church, and there has been an uneasy ambiguity in relations.

It leads to some odd situations. There was an occasion in Chile in which the bishops, returning from the abortive meeting in Riobamba last year, were spotted at the airport by what was clearly an officially organized crowd. They were also greeted in the government-controlled press. But soon afterwards they were invited to an official lunch by General Pinochet, the head of the junta.

Some members of the Church are better than others at resisting this sort of blandishment. There are many bishops who are reluctant to criticize the military regimes directly; and even those who are, like Cardinal Silva of Chile, find that they have to adopt a cautious approach if they are not to have a direct confrontation, in which the Church might not come off best.

Peter Strafford

Bernard Levin

## A good opening and a sinister endgame

Chess is the only game with no drawbacks; it eliminates chance (at any rate from the board) - it could hardly be expected to do so from the lives and temperaments of the players), anyone can learn in an hour or two how to play, it is infinite in practice even if not in theory, it requires no expensive equipment, it needs only two players, the talent for it is apparently distributed entirely at random, being found alike in players with no other intellectual attainments and in those of immense learning, it has never incurred ecclesiastical displeasure, and until very recently it has not been affected by political or ideological considerations.

I know of no game, at any rate of a complexity that makes it worth playing, that can say as much. And of course there is no game, and there are precious few other activities of any kind, that give the participants a pleasure so intense and varied.

Its literature is enormously extensive, and unlike that of games such as bridge - much of it can be read with interest by non-players. And I have recently had a pair of chess-books in my hands of which that last point could have been made more forcibly than in the case of *The Encyclopedia of Chess*, edited by Harry Golombek, and *Chess Is My Life*, by Viktor Korchnoi (both published by Bantam).

Mr Golombek is, of course, the Chess Correspondent of this newspaper, where he mixes chess entertainment with chess instruction every Saturday; in addition, he carries out various official functions on behalf of the International Chess Federation, the agent at the Fischer-Spassky World Championship match in Reykjavik, and it must have been largely thanks to him that that episode didn't lead to the Third World War. Approached by the publishers to write a comprehensive encyclopedia of chess, he expressed amazement, which will be shared by every player, that there was no satisfactory work of the kind already in existence, and then got down to producing his own. He recruited six associate editors, including two British Champions, and six more contributors, he does not tell us on what principles the work was divided up, but some of them can be deduced from the authorship of the entries, each of which bears the initials of the writer. Not that it matters much; the user of an encyclo-



Golombek (left) and Korchnoi: covering chess across the board.

paedia wants to be reassured on only a few vital points: will he find what he is looking for, will the information be accurate when it is found, but not excessive, measure, will it be presented in a style (and format) that makes it pleasant to read? All these tests this book passes triumphantly, and arguments with a cry of "Where's the Golombek?" The entries cover technical terms, from Absolute Seventh Rank to Zugzwang, accounts of chess history, in all the countries which have any details of all important international tournaments ever played, the official Laws (though I suspect it would be impossible to learn to play, if you knew not only the game in advance, from these alone), a vast and very useful section on problems, an almost equally large entry on the Endgame, a number of delightful entries on some of the byways, such as chess in

films and in Shakespeare (there is also an entry under Barman, though this is unfortunately not an account of famous drinking-disputing players but a description of the chess festival held in 1905 in the German town of that name), and - by far the largest group of entries - biographical accounts of every player of even the slightest distinction for whom records of any kind exist. These will provide the greatest pleasure for the non-players, as well as the greatest amount of information for the addicts. I know that Count O'Kelly de Galway is not only a real person, but, if you please, a Belgian grandmaster; but which of us knew that the present World Champion collects stamps? The biographical entries, indeed, are models of their kind; extraordinarily concise for the information they convey (which includes details of the players' lives, chess careers, style of play and match temperament) and for the most part written with considerable grace. (The leading ones are also supplied with photographs - the book is lavishly illustrated throughout - though only Mr



Golombek himself has two such portraits accompanying his entry.

All reviewers of reference-books have to draw attention to at least one omission, to show how clever they are, though I was hard put to it to meet this exacting requirement in the case of *The Encyclopedia of Chess*. I think, though, that there ought to be (I imagine there will be many more editions - indeed, there will have to be, for the book will inevitably get out of date as new players of importance arise) an entry under Chess in literature; there are a few such references here and there, but they are not collected, and under no heading at all could I find any reference to the most celebrated of all the appearances of chess in fiction, Stefan Zweig's *The Royal Game*. Mr Golombek might also consider an entry for chess metaphors, which have passed into general use in many languages. But his most urgent task is to go round to the publishers with four copies of his sumptuous and indispensable book, tied together (they would weigh

well over a stone, not counting the string) and bang the managing director over the head with the resulting parcel for the combined idiosyncrasy and unprofessionalism of putting out the book with nothing whatever - neither title nor editor, nor even publisher, colophon or dedication - on the spine or the boards; as soon as the dust-jacket disintegrates (which, with a reference book, will inevitably be fairly quickly) the volume will look like a rather messy ledger, entirely black and entirely blank. I said in my opening paragraph that chess had not "until very recently" been "sacred by ideology"; alas, Korchnoi's book would make the qualification necessary if nothing else had done so. It is an utterly absorbing and haunting book, and with the exception of the Appendix, in which he gives the scores of his outstanding games, can be read even by those who have never heard of chess. For Korchnoi's story is that of a Soviet grandmaster, fated and shown in America and in Japan as well as being broadcast in stereo on Radio 3, is the cause of all the excitement. As an estimated eight million people will see and/or hear the opera, I thought I would go and ask Robin Stapleton, who is a year-old conductor, how he felt about it all. Mr Stapleton was very calm when I saw him yesterday and regaled me with hilarious tales of things that have gone wrong in various productions he has conducted over the years. He is presently

what followed we left from his account of the pressure on him, the brutal intimidation (the authorities employed gangs of thugs to shout unmercifully during his march against the reigning Soviet champion, whom they could not allow to be beaten by a political deviant), the threats ("You beat Karpov and just see what we'll do to you"), the "treachery" of so many of his friends and colleagues when the screw was turned (a few behaved well, including Spassky, who has himself been "hounded" by the authorities for his pains). The Soviet authorities were in a genuine dilemma, which became acute when Korchnoi finally got out of the country. Most dissidents are ignored by the Soviet regime, and very rarely indeed is any mention made of one who has escaped or been expelled. But this technique was impossible in the case of Korchnoi, such is the passion for chess in the Soviet Union, and such the official encouragement of it, that Korchnoi was known to literally tens of millions of Soviet citizens, who had sat before television screens, watching him as he played. For the first time, the Soviet masses, as opposed, say, to the intellectuals or the Jewish community, could not be prevented from knowing that one of their idols was in disfavour with the regime, and the campaign against him seemed to be imbued with genuine panic. (A new Soviet book on the 1974 Karpov-Korchnoi Championship match had to have all references to Korchnoi deleted, so that he is simply referred to throughout as "the opponent".)

But there may be worse to come. At this moment, Korchnoi is moving towards victory in the final play-off round (ironically, against Spassky) that will decide who is to challenge Karpov for the World Championship. Since the Championship is "sacred" by an international body not under Soviet control, they may be faced not only with reporting a fight between their World Champion and a "traitor", but also with the prospect of a defeat of the former by the latter. Already, Korchnoi has been playing like a tiger; if he gets the right to challenge Karpov for the crown, he will have to drive off pride, conviction and hate inside him that will take some stopping. I wish him well. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

## THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

### When Rattigan watched his own obituary

Eight months ago, the clearly dying Terence Rattigan watched his own obituary on television. He lay in a London hospital bed, surrounded by flowers, and after the video monitor was turned off at the end of the 90-minute programme, a tear coursed down his cheek and he quietly spoke his thanks. Graham Benson, producer of the programme, and its director Michael Darlow, had watched the playwright particularly closely to see how he would react to what Mr Benson calls the "highly personal aspects of his life. There was no hint of disapproval."

Tonight at 9.25, BBC 1 will be screening the programme, *Terence Rattigan: a Tribute*. It will include eulogies from many of his closest friends and professional admirers, John Gielgud, Emlyn Williams and Rex Harrison among them, and there are scenes from some of his plays and the films for which he wrote the screenplays. "In making the programme, we did not lean heavily on the fact that Rattigan was dying, but we had to do it in a hurry," Mr Benson says. "We knew we were making an obituary, but we had to make sure we gave no hint of that pre-knowledge to Rattigan."



### Bringing Macbeth to the masses

When the Director General of the BBC attends a preview showing (a rare occurrence indeed) and when the gentlemen of the press applaud and the end (even rarer) then something, as they say, must be said. Tomorrow's three-hour screening of Verdi's *Macbeth*, which goes out simultaneously on Eurovision and is to be shown in America and in Japan as well as being broadcast in stereo on Radio 3, is the cause of all the excitement. As an estimated eight million people will see and/or hear the opera, I thought I would go and ask Robin Stapleton, who is a year-old conductor, how he felt about it all. Mr Stapleton was very calm when I saw him yesterday and regaled me with hilarious tales of things that have gone wrong in various productions he has conducted over the years. He is presently writing a book about these comic incidents. Television recording, he said, was even more exhausting than the recording and *Macbeth* took eight days (12 hours a day in the studio) to record. Mr Stapleton and the orchestra were in one studio at Television Centre and the cast were on stage in another. Synchronizing the videotape with the stereo sound presented the trickiest problem. Best known for his interpretations of Verdi and of Puccini, Mr Stapleton now wants to take in Mozart and Wagner. "I feel like an opera house of my own where I could go and make mistakes and learn," he said. Meanwhile, on December 14, he is to conduct the Huddersfield Choral Society in the Mozart arrangement of Handel's *Messiah* - a new Christmas honour for one so young.

### High consumption at Westminster

The Consumers' Association are fast becoming one of the most prolific sources of legislation in the land. In the past six years, they have seen three private members' Bills of their creation pass into law. Now they seem certain to see a fourth. Bryan Davies, the Tribune MP for Enfield North who came third in this year's ballot for private members' Bills, has adopted Consumer Association's

### In the steps of Lord Byron

Iris Benham-Lee, with period atmosphere in mind, dressed up as the wayward Lady Caroline Lamb the other night - the coach boy look-and-trud the very floorboards that have known the tread not only of the real Caroline but of her adored, and at one time adoring, Byron. You will gather that Mrs Benham-Lee has a lively sense of history. That is why she persuaded John Addy, present occupier of Byron's flat at 10, Great Brunswick Street, to let a hundred or so characteristically inclined people invade his premises so that two professional actors could read from the works of Byron and Lady Caroline. It was just one more of her efforts to raise cash for Action Research for the Crippled Child, for which she is central London organizer. She calls the events People and Places, and they are becoming the talk of London literati. She and her committee find a building with a literary or historical link, engage actors (without fee), lay out a feast of food and drink and capacity audiences respond. Oscar Wilde, Handel, the Duff-Coopers and Elizabeth I are among those who have been given the Byron treatment. The Brontës and Isadora Duncan.

### Just stooping

Late, but better than never, President Sadat has cleared up a minor mystery connected with his visit to Israel. He has appeared to have done so on television - has Mrs Meir? "No," he said in a television interview, "but I would not have been there if I had." He had merely bent over to greet her. Another couple of months and a ghastly error could have got into the history books. Or, worse still, into the pages of *Red Letter*.

## Ever had ringing in your ears?

For every second of every day!

The condition known as tinnitus takes many forms. A profoundly deaf person may hear bells ringing inside his head. Continuously. For every waking moment. Or he may hear the scream of machinery. Or noises like escaping steam, or rushing water. It is not unusual to hear two or three different sounds at the same time.

The RNID does what it can to help sufferers from tinnitus and all forms of deafness. To provide this help costs an enormous amount of money. And money, today, is painfully hard to find.

If you can hear, will you be thankful? And help someone less fortunate by means of a donation, a mention in your Will or by Deed of Covenant. Please do something. And do it today.

No stamp needed. Please send your donation to: The Royal National Institute for the Deaf Room 3, FREEPOST, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6BR. Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, KG

**RNID**

helps deaf people to live with deafness

هكذا ان اللاط







## a Special Report on the art, techniques and implements of handwriting

### More see point of variety

by Derek Harris

Fountainpens were revolutionary enough in their day when they represented probably 70 per cent of the writing instruments business. Now they are down to less than 20 per cent of a market which in the United Kingdom last year was worth some £22.6m.

That does not mean, according to pundits in the trade, that the fountainpen is on its way out. This is despite all the progress in the past three decades first with ballpoint pens, and then with rollerball pens (which the trade calls markers).

The latest invention is the rollerball pen, roughly a cross between a ballpoint and a marker. Even a new departure in propelling pencils (it uses a series of usually thin leads spring loaded to prevent breakages in writing use) is making inroads in a number of foreign countries.

The essential characteristics of the market in writing instruments now seems to be that where at one time one person would make one pen, possibly a pencil or two, most of the writing is now done by a whole range of different instruments for different jobs.

This is where the greatest expansion in the market has come from in recent years, although where fibre pens and other markers in the past six years or so hardly seemed to affect most ballpoint pen sales it is possible that the rollerball pen might erode either or both.

The total market tends to be under-researched with some comparative statistics hard to come by, but there is no doubt it is a highly competitive business in each of its sectors. The marker market at the cheaper end is dominated by imports, largely from Northern Italy, but with some from the Pacific basin.

Imports are the source of

many of the own-brand markers to be found in the big multiple shops. But Montmore Manufacturing, which produces the Platinium range and is one of the few remaining independent British pen and marker makers, nevertheless claims 67 per cent of the children's markers market.

Imports overall represent about 40 per cent of total sales in the United Kingdom in terms of value and far more in terms of units. In ballpoints—the biggest single market segment in the United Kingdom at 41 per cent—the foreign share was slightly more than 48 per cent last year in value terms. The French company Bic, a major supplier to the commercial market, which means sales to companies and organizations rather than over the counter to individuals, probably accounted for a substantial slice of such imports.

But foreign competition is not confined to the throw-away end of the market. A common assessment of the major competitors in the United Kingdom market is that, in value terms, Parker Pen led the field followed by Papermate, the subsidiary of the United States-based Gillette.

Parker, although another United States company, has been manufacturing in Britain since 1948, not only supplying the United Kingdom market's needs but also exporting to some 80 countries. Papermate on the other hand largely imports from the United States and in the quality ballpoint pen sector runs Parker close for first place in value terms. Papermate certainly is ahead of Parker on volume, some of its range being further down the market.

Last year 77 per cent of the Parker sales was represented by ballpoint pens, fountainpens being the other substantial contributor at 15 per cent. The other major contender in quality ballpoints is another United States company, Sheaffer, which does some part manu-

facture and assembly in Britain at Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire.

Sheaffer is the nearest rival to Parker in the sector which is almost synonymous with Parker pens—the gold nib market. The largest volume in this market is at about the £10 retail mark, although Parker makes one solid gold fountainpen retailing at £137.

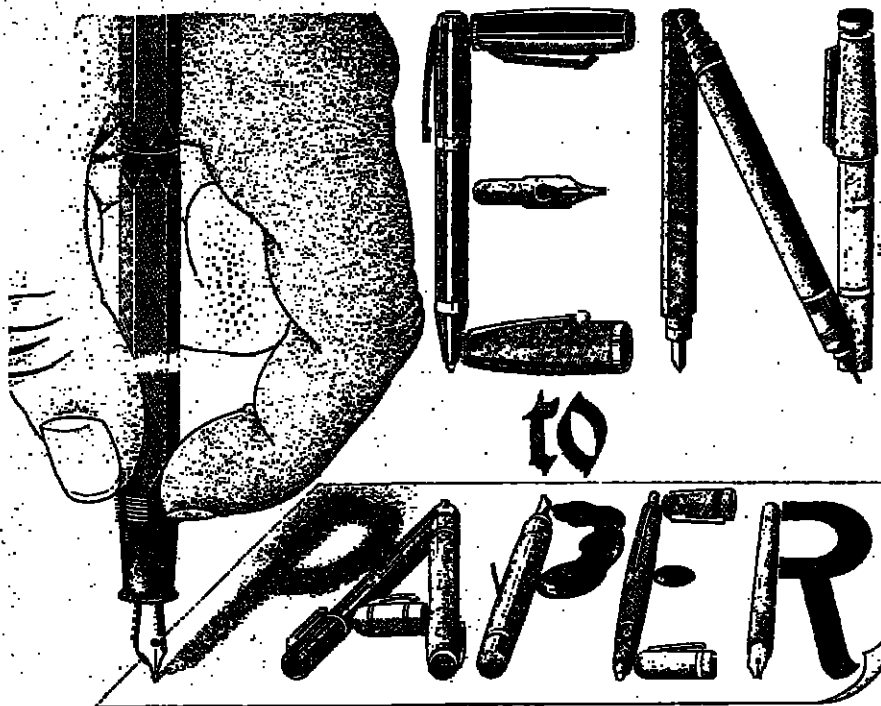
But while Sheaffer has at most some 20 per cent of the market sector, and the French company, Waterman, some 5 per cent, Parker claims 72 per cent of the market.

Mr Jack Margry, marketing director at Parker, whose manufacturing headquarters is at Newhaven, East Sussex, commented: "Since the dip in sales caused first by the ballpoint pens, the nib market has remained pretty static for a number of years. But there have recently been signs of a pick-up and I believe there will be a slight increase over the next few years—possibly 5 per cent a year. One problem is the people who have not used a fountainpen or not for a long time: it is a very sophisticated writing instrument these days, one of the old splurges and leak that some might remember from school days, and convenient with such facilities as slip-in ink cartridges."

He felt the upturn would be in the quality market, including the better quality steel nibs. Parker claims 32 per cent of the steel nib market by value.

But here a lion's share goes to Platinium pens that dominate the lower echelons of the sector. Platinium, while having a few gold nib pens in its range, has well over 50 per cent by volume of the fountainpen market, including those with steel nibs. Two thirds of the steel nib sector is represented by buying for, or by, schoolchildren. Young people still tend to use fountainpens for handed-in work at school although the pressures on

continued on page III



Richard Draper

### Writers begin to show their true colours

by Patricia Tisdall

Great prestige is still associated with personal writing paper. Even though faster and easier ways of direct communication by telephone and air mean that letters are seldom the only clue to the writer's personality and status, many people believe that a prospective employer or host will analyse the appearance of a letter including the quality of the paper that it is written on (down to the watermark) as well as its content.

Butlers, social secretaries and other connoisseurs still scrutinize stationery carefully in this respect. However, the yardsticks have changed. At one time social status used to be related to the size of the embossing on a printed letter-head and the thickness of the paper. Gilded edges were particularly valued.

But by the end of the Second World War upper class tastes had changed to become less flamboyant. In time blue or white. Since then, however, letter writers—particularly younger ones—have become much more adventurous. The change started behind American-style marketing of greeting cards with folded and boxed notepapers containing a decoration on one side. It

was in turn opened new paths for the unselfconscious letter writer and the stationery writer was that the more exotic papers such as the scented varieties and those with engraved pictures of stately homes vanished. Until the past five years or so, the only colours easily available from most retail stationers were a conservative blue or white. Above all, people wanted the ordering process made simpler and quicker.

The research showed that, contrary to widely held beliefs, the potential user's favourite colour was no longer blue but vellum—a warm, pale beige colour. Given the option, 33 per cent

has now spread, particularly in the choice of colours offered, to conventional notepapers.

Nevertheless, some of the old class-conscious attitudes to personal stationery have not altered. Thin, ruled, writing paper is, for instance, still regarded by etiquette tutors as socially inferior. This widespread attitude sprang from the delusion that only the semi-literate needed rules to guide their handwriting. At the same time, most popular writing pads to this day carry a heavy ruled sheet which can secretly be used to straighten shaky handwriting.

On the other hand, printed letterheads have continued to be considered desirable socially as well as for practical reasons. The problem has been, until recently, that the supply of personalized printed stationery has been confined to a small number of outlets. Obtaining it has tended to be a lengthy expensive and tedious process undertaken by only a few persistent and copious letter writers.

With a few exceptions, the choice of supplier was limited either to the local printer, who did not welcome having to set up his press for a short run of 200 or so sheets of paper, or to a retail agent of a large concern such as J. Arthur Dixon who placed orders from style books.

In either case it was rare for delivery to be made within less than a month.

It was in the personalized sector of the stationery market that Mr Christian Brann, a marketing consultant with considerable experience of printing and publishing, saw a business opportunity. His preliminary research showed a demand for a wider range of matching paper colours, inks and envelopes than were generally available. Above all, people wanted the ordering process made simpler and quicker.

The research showed that, contrary to widely held beliefs, the potential user's favourite colour was no longer blue but vellum—a warm, pale beige colour. Given the option, 33 per cent

preferred this, whereas only 12 per cent chose blue.

The next most popular colour was amber, a darker shade of brown, followed by white. Brown headed the list for ink with 40 per cent, followed by wine with the traditional black and blue colours lagging well behind.

Mr Brann decided to act on his own research results and for the past year has been operating a mail order personal stationery service from a printing plant based at Cirencester in Gloucestershire.

He offers delivery, based in pre-paid orders received as a result of advertisements, within 28 days and claims to have built up a market "in excess of a million households."

Mr Brann's system has, he says, proved as successful in Switzerland and Germany as it has in Britain and he is planning to enter the Dutch market.

As well as being quicker than conventional outlets, Mr Brann's service is considerably less expensive, at between £4.25 and £5.85 for 200 headed sheets, depending on size. At the other end of the personalized writing paper scale it is not difficult to be charged £100 or more for a set of 500 or more than 20p a sheet plus envelope for writing paper from, say, Smythson of Bond Street, London.

By far the largest company within the writing paper industry, however, is Dickinson Robinson whose Basildon Bond, Queen's Velvet, Three Candlesticks, Lion and Churston Deckle brands account for nearly three quarters of total British sales—estimated at about £18m. In some sectors, such as writing pads, its share is as much as 80 per cent.

As well as being one of the biggest manufacturers of envelopes and stationery products in the world, the £282m group is also one of the oldest, having been founded by John Dickinson in the early 1800s. It remains one of the few industrial giants which still survive from the days of George III.

The company, which has a considerable export as well as British trade, places con-

siderable importance on its brand names. One of the oldest of these is Lion which, at between 9p and 12p a pad (depending on size) is also the least expensive.

Lion brand paper, first instituted in Calcutta in 1880, was adopted as Dickinson's logo in 1910. The most recent, sitting at the top end of the company's quality range, is Three Candlesticks priced at 40p for a pad of 50 sheets and introduced in the mid 1960s.

Contrary to common belief, the habit of writing personal letters has not been replaced by the telephone. Far from dwindling, Dickinson's sales were expanding by between 3 and 5 per cent until 1974 when they were hit by a combination of steep postal rises and the general economic recession. Growth in real terms overall has subsequently been of the order of 1 to 2 per cent annually.

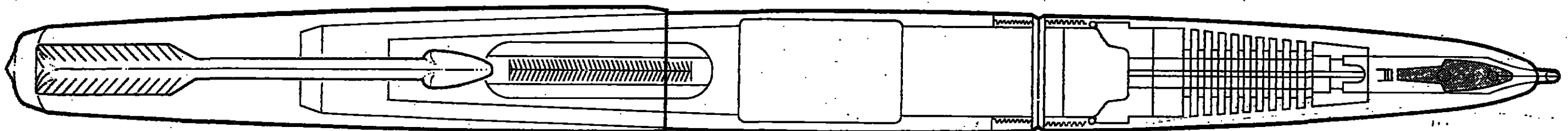
However, while not reducing the number of letters, corresponders are tending to write shorter ones. Tastes have also changed, with the result that the main growth in sales is now in decorated, illustrated and unusual short notepaper, usually sold in boxes. Here, although one of the first in the field with their Briefcase brand, Dickinson's account for only about 15 per cent of sales.

The reason for this is that there have been large numbers of new entrants, either imported or designed by craftsmen on a small scale. As a result, the market is much more fragmented than for instance, the writing pads sector where distribution is national and in great quantities.

New entrants with original ideas are competing for older customers, who make most purchases of personalized stationery, and also for the youthful fashion-conscious market, which buys most decorated notepaper.

Nevertheless, Dickinson's is confident of maintaining its stake as far as the mass of writing paper purchases is concerned, and is meanwhile opening up new markets abroad. The range of established brands has recently and successfully been introduced in Japan.

# A pen that merely looks beautiful is no pen at all.



Before you buy a new fountain pen ask yourself a fundamental question.

What are you actually going to do with it?

Is it something you're going to leave as evidence of your good taste on a leather-topped desk?

Is it going to be a status symbol with which you sign the occasional bill, at fashionable restaurants?

Or will it be a piece of jewellery to complement your gold cufflinks and cigarette case?

If so, take a look at the photograph of the Parker Cirrus below, compare it with other fountain pens that cost around the £22 mark and make your choice.

But if, on the other hand, you are

going to write with it, that's a different matter.

And we'd recommend that you study the technical drawing above, for it will tell you a lot more about the pen.

For example: do you see that little capsule shape behind the nib, the one with the fins?

It's called an ink collector and ensures there's always enough ink with which to write, but never so much as to blot.

And if the air inside the pen expands (due to high altitude flying or the heat of your hand) it'll prevent ink leaking into your suit pocket.

Another reason why the Cirrus will always write first time is the way we make the nib.

Starting with sheets of pure 14 carat gold we press, cut and polish it into a shape that perfectly conveys the ink to the tip.

At every critical stage we examine it under a microscope, particularly of course, when we grind the tip itself.

We make this from a costly alloy called Plathenum which is four times harder than steel and ten times smoother. It will last a lifetime.

There are eight nib-styles and if you find you're unhappy with the one you choose, we'll change it for another grade if you return it within a month of purchase.

We could go on. The clip is of rolled gold on phosphor bronze. It shouldn't snap or lose its tension.

The ink-sac is rubber, it won't perish or puncture (and you can replace it with a cartridge of Quink simply by unscrewing it).

But perhaps it's time to look at the photograph.

The Cirrus is finished in rolled gold on which we've drawn the finest lines to give it a quiet lustre.

If you think it has style, good. If you think it will reflect well on your status that's fine.

But if it makes you want to write, well, that's perfect.

**PARKER**



THE PARKER CIRRUS COSTS £22. THERE IS ALSO A MATCHING CIRRUS BALL PEN, FIBRE TIP AND PENCIL, £14 EACH. RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES INCLUDING VAT.



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Please send the following stationery to my address <input type="checkbox"/> friend's address <input type="checkbox"/>	
No. of packs	
AS headed sheets (16" x 5 1/2" ms)	£4.95 per 200
AS plain construction sheets	£2.95 per 200
AS matching envelopes (14 1/2" x 9 1/2" ms) £1.85 per 100	
Correspondence cards (15 1/2" x 4 1/2")	£4.95 per 200
Postage and packing 1.00 TOTAL £	

Colour of paper tick ☐ Colour of print tick ☐ Address position tick ☐

White ☐ Black ☐ Centred ☐ Single line ☐

Vellum ☐ Deep Brown ☐ Cream ☐

Amber ☐ Royal Blue ☐ Single line ☐

Your own details. For gift orders, give all friends' details on separate sheet.

Your own title and name ☐ Address for stationery attached ☐

Name of house ☐

No. and name of street ☐

Town ☐

County and postcode ☐

Telephone no. ☐

Print this address on stationery ☐ Address for stationery attached ☐

I enclose a cheque for £ ☐

Please debit my Account/ Barclaycard No. ☐

Signature ☐

Allow 28 days delivery. Prices include V.A.T. FREEPOST—no stamp needed. Offer available UK only

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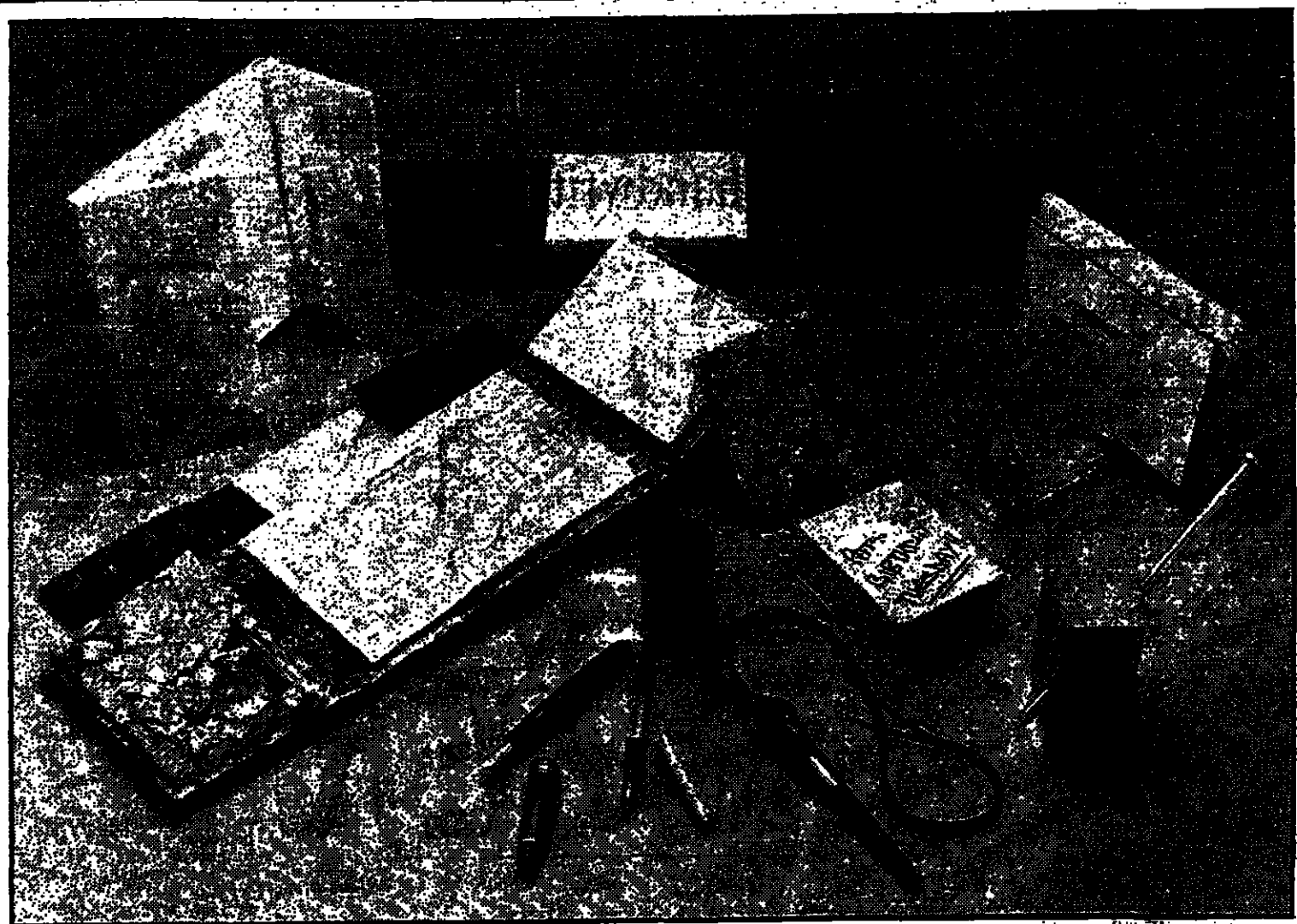
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## Long flight from goose quill to pure gold

by Philippa Toomey

One of the richly comic scenes in *Fanny Hill* concerns the writing of a letter by Mr. Darcy and the comments of the scheming Miss Bingley on the quality of his handwriting, the evenness of his lines and the length of his letter. "I am afraid you do not like your pen," she said. "Let me lend it for you. I mend pens remarkably well."

Liking one's pen—it is the crucial phrase concerning the writing of a letter, or anything else, by hand. More than half the population owns a fountain pen, but in the days when letters were written by quill, there was a constant mending of pens. ("Thank you," said Mr. Darcy, "but I always mend my own.")

A goose quill was the most common, selected from the third or fourth feather of the wing. It was considered best to choose the left wing, because the curve of the feather would fit the right hand. (For left-handed scribes, take the left wing.) A sharp knife was used to shape the end—not for nothing it is still known as a penknife—and the point was then slit down the middle. Later on there would be a neat little cutter, rather like a cigar cutter, to cut quills. The quill replaced the reed pen—with the edges curved and blunted so as not to cut the fingers, with the end cut to a tapering shape and ending in a point split by a groove to contain the ink. Not only were these feathers used—the swan and the raven were also popular, with vulture feathers for large script, and crow feathers for the small. No one seems to have considered the ostrich—except the gold pen nib, which resisted corrosion—made great progress during the early years of the nineteenth century.

I remember a time when everyone wrote with pens and nibs, and everyone had a little bump (possibly ink-stained) on the middle finger of the hand where the quill pen nib—and even the gold pen nib, which resisted corrosion—made great progress during the early years of the nineteenth century.

The Parker Pen Company divides its customers into two categories—the scribes and the writers. Mr. Darcy was a writer, his friend Mr. Bingley a scribe. "Oh," cried Miss Bingley, "Charles writes in the most careless way imaginable. He leaves out half his words, and blots the rest." Writers buy fountainpens, scribes buy ballpoints and fibre tips. "My ideas," said Mr. Bingley, "flow so rapidly that I have no time to express them; by which means my letters sometimes convey no ideas

at all to my correspondents." A good pen, it could be claimed, would make even Mr. Bingley's handwriting readable.

At Mr. Philip Poole's shop in Drury Lane, it may be discovered that not only do people buy pens, they still buy pen nibs, sometimes a gross at a time.

The Birmingham firm of C. Brandauer & Co used to make more than a thousand different kinds of nibs. For the Queen's silver jubilee they asked one of their craftsmen out of retirement (he was 92) and made some special silver nibs, embossed with the royal arms—a set of 11 with a penholder in a wooden presentation case, available from Philip Poole at £12.50. British Airways uses mapping nibs. The Savoy Hotel has just ordered 2,000 pen holders (with nibs). Musicians use pens—Osmoid has the popular pen nib, which they call, they will...

You can still buy a pen nib for 5p, and pen holders from 13p upwards. The most popular pen, Mr. Poole says, is the Osmoid with its changeable nibs at about £1 with masses of nibs, for all varieties of scripts, or even sketching from about 28p each. Platinum, which specializes in pens, says, "A pen nib is a pen which is similar."

It came to me the other day that I have not owned a bottle of ink for the past 10 years. Nor is there one in the office. If you buy the modern fountainpen, no longer is the filling of it more to do with the fountain than the pen. Sheaffer, Waterman and Parker all have their own ink. Parker's Superquink cleans the pen as it writes, and has six permanent colours (black, blue, black, blue, turquoise, red and green) and one washable colour, sensibly for home and school use, royal blue.

Ink used to be made simply by mixing soot, lamp-black or charcoal made from vine shoots with gum and water, in one colour only. Like Henry Ford's cars, black was not only soluble but liable to crack off the parchment, and for this reason it was not used on legal documents, though it lasted well into the Renaissance, referred to as "special black ink" as opposed to "common black ink".

From a fascinating book, *English Literary History* by Anthony G. Poni (Edward Arnold, £14.50) one may see

various almost "toxic" inkable hands, as less than our modern eyes through Professor Joel Hursfield has assured me that one can learn to read Elizabethan hands in quite a short time. Some of these are in "special black ink" but most are in ink, which Mr. Poole tells us, was made from gall nuts, soaked in wine or rawwater and left out in the sun several times during the process, which included adding two ounces of iron sulphate and finally an ounce of gum arabic. The modern process uses gall nuts still, and the process is oddly similar. The colour of ink has always had some significance—green used to show freshness, vigour and prosperity, purple indicated royalty, red for blood and luxury life.

When I asked the Walton Street Stationery Company what colour of ink was most popular these days, they replied without hesitation "brown." Why was this? Because they most popular coloured writing papers are the coffee and cream colours. Their own Walton Street writing paper is exclusive to them, imported from the United States through Crane Papers of America, the paper edged in colour with envelopes lined to match—coffee with darker brown, white edged with chocolate, blue edged with seafoam, and pink with a light pink. The half sheet (a small size of writing paper) at £5.50 per 100, with envelopes from £7 to £8 per 100.

They also stock the Honkory range of writing papers in all kinds of unusual colours—bright green, plum, light blue, light green, grey—how about grey envelopes with cream paper? The cost £4.50 and £5.40 per 100 sheets. And there is black paper and black envelopes—you write with a white wax crayon. They sell quite a lot of the black paper for mounting, but not the envelopes. The company specializes in anything out of the ordinary. In a show case there is a single-sheet of paper, exquisitely patterned and illuminated with the first four lines of Shakespeare's sonnet: "Mine eye hath played the painter: done by Kasim Szemosh in Poland—and the sonnet/letter is £20. These are done by special order, and that particular sonnet has already been sold.

The company will make up anything you want in the writing paper line—any colour, any ink, any type—and the staff give the impression that they actually like to find something difficult. Die-stamping takes

about two and a half weeks, sheetpress and litho, up to the days. All their own paper is made in Scotland, of 100 per cent cotton. Pens can be expensive. Asprey's most expensive one in stock was a Waterman fountainpen in 18 carat gold at £570. (They did have a pen at £1,750 but somebody bought it.) If you like a nice fat black pen with a matt surface (most pens positively shine) they have one from Mont Blanc at £20. The Walton Street Company had an even fatter one from Mont Blanc at £45 which looked as if it would sink a pint, anybody?

In the whole, the slim line is in, with both fountain and felt tip. Asprey's had a nine carat gold felt pen at £102.50, and the same in silver at £22.50 (refills at 60p). There is a pen with a calculator (Japanese of course) at £39.95 which runs on a tiny battery, and a fairly expensive joke ballpoint pen at £3.50 (refillable) which looks like a giant nail. As a sign of the times there is a silver camel pen stand, with a palm leaf tip to two pens. At the other end of the scale, a quick trip round a stationery shop (Kynman's, for example) will produce seven pens of varying kinds for a total of £17.5. And the most incredible was the denim set found in a gift shop, in proper denim blue ink, with a denim pen holder, presumably for a hip pocket, at £2.50.

I remember getting a Parker 51 set for my birthday first birthday. (In the days when we still had birthdays, we still had birthdays.) The first birthday set was a very acceptable present. Parker's research shows that pens are still green as presents, and they do have a very attractive collection from Dr. G. L. Parker's Range there is something for signing things at £190 for the 18 carat pen, with matching pen holder, a pair of pens at £120. There is the modest Slingshot, which is round your neck on a chain, at £195.

There is a Zodiac slinger in black, which opens up to a red quill. The quill has a fine finish, done by hand, which reproduces a lacquer effect in wood, tortoiseshell, or red quill. The quill is £15. Designed for the young is a sturdy pen, the "25" in stainless steel, with three kinds of nib, filling from bottle or cartridge, at £5. No more mess, no more fiddling, signed Poch, FLETCHER, WOL, EOR.

Then there is the well-dressed desk, to go with the pen. Asprey's own might buy the elephant grained desk set—not actually elephant, but leather, with blotter, tray, pen stand, stationery rack, waste bin, memo pad and office lamp. In elephant colour with gilt edges and gold chain links, it is most impressive at £465.

Other sets vary in content, with blotters, note pads, memo pads, and so on, but all Asprey's customers are expected to have a photograph frame—wives, children, dogs or racehorses, take your pick for the one you love. Something rather handy for any office, however grand, was the tool kit—a terrific assortment of small screwdrivers, pliers, bits and pieces plus a pen-knife—not for removing stones from horses' hooves, camels have those great feet. Also an elephant, note, in gold on leather saying "I CAN BE DONE" at £285.

Further down the financial scale are the pretty designs of Nigel Quimby for the impediments that fill the great empty spaces on our desks. These are covered in attractive new papers, ranging from a pastoral scene in shades of grey, cream and brown to art nouveau-ish in

What the well-dressed desks are wearing this Christmas:

1 Lappak by John Dickinson & Co—15 sheets of flowered notepaper with 10 envelopes, neatly tucked into a matching folder (86p at Woolworth).

2 Deskmate by Papermate—four clip-together units in clear brown acrylic—you can arrange them in any combination. The set includes a cigarette box and ashtray, a pencil-tub, a note pad and a ball-point pen in brushed chrome. (£12.36 at Ryman).

3 Nigel Quimby's glossily covered appointment book (£3.95) and chubby memo pad (£1.85) with a matching design of cats, dogs and flowers. Both at Jostig, 84 Marylebone High St, W1.

4/5 Blocco VIP, a heavy pen-tub, and stationery rack in clear acrylic, by Quimby of Italy. (£6.61 at Ryman). Slotted in the back of five correspondence cards, edged in scarlet, with envelopes lined to match (95p from Walton Street Stationery, Walton St, SW3).

6 Walton Street's bottle of dark brown writing ink (two fluid ounces, £1).

7 Parker's fountain pen (two fluid ounces, £1).

8 Parker's fountain pen (two fluid ounces, £1).

9 Parker's fountain pen (two fluid ounces, £1).

10 Parker's fountain pen (two fluid ounces, £1).

11 Parker's fountain pen (two fluid ounces, £1).

12 Parker's fountain pen (two fluid ounces, £1).

13 Parker's fountain pen (two fluid ounces, £1).

14 Parker's fountain pen (two fluid ounces, £1).



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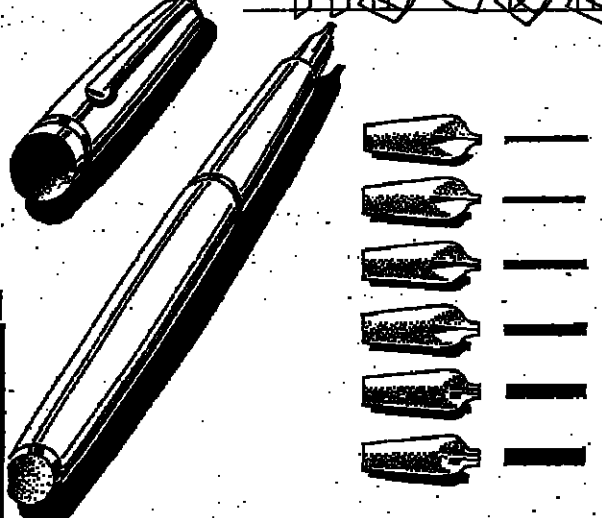
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هكذا من الاصل



## Away from the signs of the times and back to a fair script

by Nicolette Gray

"Beautiful or fair writing, elegant penmanship" is the Oxford Dictionary's definition of calligraphy. Do we practise, or have any use for this activity today?

The dictum that reading and writing are becoming obsolete, that we are reverting to a state of communication through signs and pen-made, is a lettering

sounds only, has, it seems, and one hopes—been rejected. But so we still need "fair writing". Nor in one sense, no one now makes a fair copy of a text, or in a ledger. That is done by the typewriter.

What, about fair in the other sense? We see plenty of clever, modish or fancy letters on advertisements, book jackets, record sleeves and so on, but this is seldom and so on, but this is seldom

rather than writing. Is calligraphy, then, an art of the past, of books written with quills on vellum, of the elaborate forms and flourishes of the writing masters? In this sense it is surely dead.

But there still remains "elegant penmanship" as the proper accomplishment of an educated person. It can hardly be said to flourish. Most people can and do write, but their writ-

ing is seldom elegant; indeed, as so time in our history has handwriting been so mean and dull. The only decent hands which one sees are all to a greater or lesser degree dependent on the revival of italic hand. In this our only hope? Should we press on, regardless of teacher resistance, towards italic for all?

Penmanship: the pen seems an essential element. But, when we say "pen", what do we mean? If we are talking practically, we mean a ballpoint or a fibre or nylon tip—the abomination of most people who believe in calligraphy.

Traditional pens can produce an elegant modulated line, either by pressure, as in copper-plate writing, or by the angle at which a broad-edged nib traverses the paper as in italic hand. Ikerin lies one of the chief beauties of traditional scripts. Ballpoint pens, by contrast, produce a monotonous even line which lacks the discipline of resistance between pen and paper, tends to degenerate into a formless scrawl. We have all noticed that the use of a ballpoint has disastrous effects on handwriting which once was quite attractive.

So people who care try to use a fountain-pen instead. Teachers who care forbid their pupils to write with the instrument of our day. We fight against it—a battle which we are bound to lose because the ballpoint is so convenient and because—let us admit it—there is something very satisfactory in the way that it runs so smoothly over the paper.

There is also something rather delightful about the lightness of touch of fibre-tipped pens. Why then do they produce such deplorable handwriting? Perhaps because we use them unthinkingly: they are a new sort of pen and yet we expect to use them as if they were the same as the old pens.

A ballpoint moves easily in all directions; the basic movement of the traditional pen is a down stroke. Why restrict the new pen to this pattern? Why not introduce flowing diagonals and horizontal strokes?

But, you may say, we all know the sort of horizontal, which the ballpoint makes; it runs out letterforms, reducing words to shapeless rakings-off. I wonder whether that is not because of the way in which we hold the pen, which is again conditioned by the old nibs.

The broad-edge nib has to be held at a definite angle, so that the whole edge is in contact with the paper. The fine-pointed flexible pen has to be held so that pressure can be exerted. The ballpoint will write at almost any angle, and the only limitation of the fibre-tip is that it is spoilt by pressure. I have found by experimenting with different pen-holds that one in which the pen is held more at right angles to the arm, instead of in the old "correct" position pointing along the arm, gives a movement which checks the down stroke and eliminates the tendency to the horizontal scrawl. It also gives a lighter touch.

### Pauses in the flow of writing

Dip-pens needed to be dipped into the ink at frequent intervals. This created necessary pauses in the flow of writing and formation of letters—pauses which were carried on into the fountain-pen period. The ballpoint runs on indefinitely, making for speed and ease, but not for the rhythm of writing with this pen. So we need to create one, and this can be done only by thinking out the movement of the pen in making letters, and in particular in making letter-combinations. We need to decide when and where the hand should be trained to pause and to make a pen-lift, and which letters should be terminal.

New pens require new pen movements, a new pen-hold, a new writing rhythm: in sum, a new method of learning to write—just as changing pens brought new methods. We need to experiment with pen-holds in the past, from the earliest cursive written with a

pointed reed pen, through Gothic using a flexible quill, sixteenth-century italic with its chisel-cut pen and finally back to the flexible pen for copperplate, the last formed style of handwriting practised in this country.

If good, legible, pleasurable handwriting is to become once more the normal accomplishment of educated people, not a self-cultivated hobby among the few, this means a new method of teaching in schools.

At present handwriting seems to be yet another area of education which is greatly neglected. Most children are made to start by copying printed letters—forms of our alphabet which have been expressly designed to eliminate all elements of calligraphy, including the joining movements which are an integral part of cursive letters. These establish correct inter-letter spacing and make possible that easy flow of movement which is essential for the ultimate formation of a quick and legible hand.

After the first step of teaching "print script", there seems seldom to be any conscious school policy about handwriting. Although there may be talk of "free expression" at an early stage, with the result that the small child may be expected to write on unlined paper, the only criteria in later school life are likely to be neatness and regularity.

And, indeed, how can we expect anything else when we have no models of excellence in handwriting? Copperplate has been superseded by "print script", which is a method of teaching, not a style of writing. The only formed and beautiful script which is available to the child, or the adult, who wants some sort of ideal on which to model his handwriting is the italic hand. And that is based on the use of a pen which is obsolete.

But perhaps this unedifying situation is not so disastrous. It leaves the way open for the introduction of new methods. We need to experiment with pen-holds and pen movements. We need to find out how



A pupil at a Manchester infants' school starting early—at seven—to "form her letters". Perhaps she will be of a generation which will recapture the stylish copperplate of its great-grandparents.

letters can be drawn with a ballpoint for maximum ease and beauty, not by reason why children should invent new forms, which would be illegible, but possibly by looking back into the history of cursive forms which might be revived. We need to work out letter-combinations in relation to language and spelling. The reform

### More see point of variety

continued from page 1

to use traditional ink pens no longer appear to be so great.

This Platinum share is probably equivalent only to about 25 per cent of the real value of the sector. Even so, with its substantial slice of the market for popularly priced ballpoint pens and an unusually wide range of marker pens, Platinum in the total writing instrument market almost certainly takes a substantial third place in value terms after Parker and Papermate. That would leave Sheaffer fourth in the overall pecking order.

Mr Christopher Andrews is chairman of Montmore Manufacturing and, at 36, the second generation of his family in a business started in 1919. From his vantage point at Montmore's Stevenage factories in Hertfordshire prospects for sales and profits are looking good, with a particularly lively export effort being mounted that last year took the company over the £1m mark in overseas sales.

This was just over 13 per cent of sales turnover compared with the 29.7 per cent for the United Kingdom manufacturers as a whole, but there was a notable leap in market sales abroad, an area where the United Kingdom makers as a whole had not been doing so well. Montmore took 74 per cent of the fibre tip markers export market last year compared with their 25 per cent share the previous year.

Australia traditionally a strong Platinum market, showed a 200 per cent sales rise last year and a top

ranking in non-toxicity tests in Sweden—an important issue where children are using writing implements—probably accounted for some of a spectacular rise in sales throughout Scandinavia.

Montmore's coup, however, has been a series of orders for fibre tip pens and ballpoints from Japan where the fibre tip was invented.

Equal optimism radiates from Parker Pen whose turnover, at factory gate prices, is running at up to £11m a year for domestic market sales and up to another £5m for export sales. Unit output last year was 11 million, showing an average annual growth rate since 1972-73 of nearly 16 per cent. Output this year is expected to jump 30 per cent to 14 million units.

Conway Stewart, Britain's oldest pen makers rescued from receivership by the Lippack Group, the Lincolnshire-based packaging company, has now after a labour curbsack and investment in new machinery, been turned round to a profit, according to Mr Colin Mansell, director and general manager. He hopes to double production of ballpoints and markers next year, while continuing to import a range of quality pens to maintain a presence in the gold nib market, from the Platinum company in Japan. Platinum's pens abroad are sold under the President label to avoid any difficulties with near-named Platinum.

Technologically speaking the next major move in writing instruments looks like the rolling tip or rolling ball pen. All the manufac-

turers, including those at the quality end, are evaluating its possibilities.

Examples from Japan show that it can give the clean line of the ballpoint with the easy flow of the fibre pen. A ball is located in a plastic socket, but the main difference is that instead of using an oil-based paste ink as with ballpoints an easier-flowing "wet" ink is used as in marker pens.

The rolling tip has an improved life compared with markers but still trails well behind the ballpoint's best capacities. Some ballpoints will write for five miles of a single line. At its present stage of development the rolling tip might reach one mile.

Another growing market is in the quality gift sector where the well-known trading houses in other areas of merchandising, such as fashion, perfume and tobacco accessories, are adding quality pens produced under their house names. It is the way that it runs so smoothly over the paper.

Parker, as might be expected, is by far the biggest United Kingdom advertiser, with an annual budget of well over £1m. In the first six months of this year Parker accounted for 26 per cent of the industry's total spending in media. Their budget for this Christmas campaign is also impressive at more than £450,000.

The author is Commercial Editor, The Times.

"Hello? Is that the engineer?...I said,  
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me. That's why I'm ringing....What?...But I AM  
speaking up.....I said I AM SPEAKING UP!  
...There's a high scream on my line....No, not  
an ice cream...A HIGH SCREAM...Well, why  
ask ME what it sounds like?...What? I know I  
need an engineer, that's why...you're who?  
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...123? Oh, forget it!"



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by John Dickinson



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There is little new or special in the techniques of marketing writing paper, but in recent years the popular demand for new designs—and even for new products—has grown at a striking rate.

A notable example is the success of the Brieflet—a single sheet of paper, 27cm by 18cm, folded in four and sporting a pretty picture in one quarter, which sells most strongly in the middle-to-cheaper end of the market. Its manufacturers, John Dickinson & Co, reckon that since 1967 its sales have risen from 1 per cent to 7 per cent of their market and are still climbing.

In common with its many counterparts—Notelets and Chatlets and Postlets and all the other-lets on to which the correspondent is expected to compress his address, the date and his most powerful emotions—the Brieflet's appeal lies chiefly in its size: "the short message for all occasions". It is ideally suited to a lazy age, when the telephone call, while cheaper as well as quicker than a letter, can still be less socially acceptable.

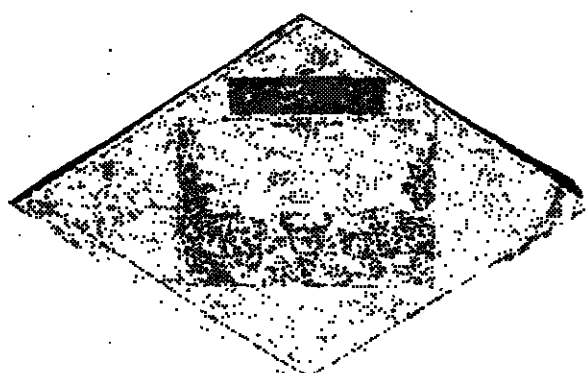
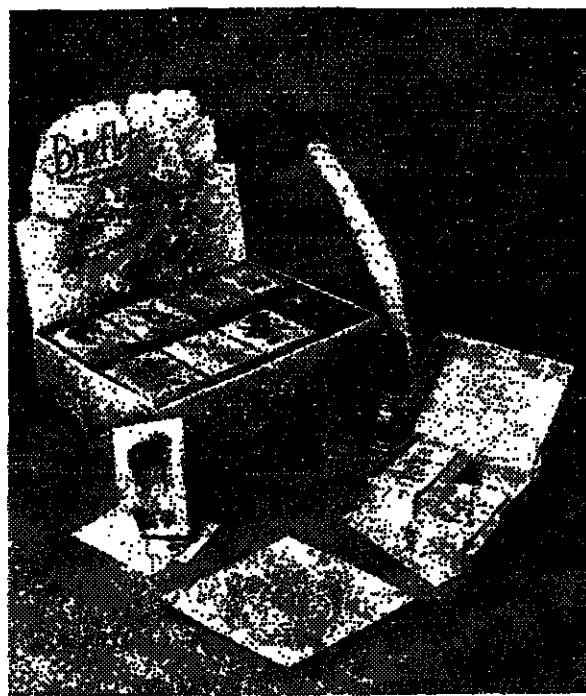
Product of our times though it may be, the Brieflet is merely the latest model in a tradition of personal stationery, marketed by Dickinson's on a mass scale, which originated 140 years ago.

Shown in the accompanying pictures are two early landmarks in that tradition: a box of stationery produced in 1899 for British soldiers serving in the Boer War, and a two-penny stamped cover issued by the Post Office in 1840.

Inside the lid of the South African box, known to the trade as a compendium or papeterie, is gummed a facsimile reproduction of one of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poems, *The Absent-Minded Beggar*, written and signed by the poet. An accompanying legend states that Dickinson's bought the reproduction rights from the *Daily Mail* "for a large sum", and that the proceeds were given to the Reservists Fund. The box contained 24 buff-coloured sheets and 20 envelopes to match. It probably sold for 6d.

The stamped cover, like the box, comes from the Dickinson archives at Aspley, near Hemel Hempstead. Known to collectors as a Mulready envelope—its value today, unused, is about £45—it recalls the almost-forgotten tale of a Victorian marketing fiasco. The story of that fiasco illustrates some of the finest virtues of the stationery trade: endeavour and ingenuity, patience and energy, enterprise and foresight. Nevertheless it ended in a mixture of tragedy and farce, and it is worth recounting in detail.

For some years before the yet been patented), The universal penny post was separately printed and sold by the stationery trade in common use as medicine. Clearly, the former method presented the paper manufacturer with by far the greater opportunities for profit, and Mr John Dickinson, who had long ago established extensive mills at Aspley in Hertfordshire, on the banks of the River Gade, soon became the cover's most ardent champion. As early as 1830, Dickinson's had not only had circulated members



of the stationery trade with a pair of demonstration letter-sheets made from the silk-threaded paper which he had patented in the previous year. Until then, and for some years to come, his use had been chiefly confined to Exchequer Bonds and other government documents which required authentication. By February, 1838—the month in which Rowland Hill was examined by a Select Committee of the House of Commons on his plans for postal reform—Dickinson was convinced that this

## How the stamp's competitor came unstuck

ment; but I think it very likely that the public would prefer the paper issued from the Stamp-office, and it certainly would be a convenience to the Post Office if that were the case, because the risk of forgery being so much diminished by the use of such a paper as Dickinson's, the duty of the inspector would be very much diminished, and I think all prospect of loss to the revenue from forgery would be at an end."

"Would that not give rise to complaints of monopoly on the part of other paper-makers?" asked the Commissioner. "I think not," Mr Hill replied. "If the Government could enter into a contract with Mr Dickinson to supply them with such paper as they might want, giving any stationer in the kingdom, or any individual, the privilege of bringing whatever paper he chose, of whatever quality or price, to be stamped, there could be no complaint."

The Commissioners' suspicions may have been allayed, probably not. In any case, the resolution passed by the Commons on August 17, 1839, under which the universal penny post finally became law, allowed for both options—covers and stamps.

It was now up to Dickinson not only to secure the government contract for making the covers—that he did, on February 26, 1840—but also to ensure that the public would opt for its use in preference to the stamp. It was at this point in his campaign that, as the wags put it, Dickinson came unstuck.

Six months previously, in the wake of the Commons resolution, the Lords of the Treasury had announced a competition, open to "all artists, men of science, and the public in general", for proposals as to the manner in which the stamp might best be brought into use.

The competition, worth £200, was won by William Mulready, RA, and it was his elaborately engraved design for a square postal cover which Dickinson, wily nifty, had secured the contract to manufacture.

The collapse of Dickinson's long-held plans was as swift as it was unforeseen. The Mulready cover and the

Penny Black stamp went on sale simultaneously, on May 6, 1840. The public, as ever more concerned with the message than the medium, at once decided that Mulready's design was a bad joke and laughed it off the market.

According to the late Dr Joan Evans, whose admirable history of John Dickinson & Co (*The Endless Web*, Jonathan Cape, 1955) is the source of this article, the design's fault lay in its supposed symbolism rather than its execution—although that too was far from perfect.

In order to give an example of the decision the cover met, Dr Evans quotes a scathing description published in a London daily newspaper: "In the centre, at the top, sits Britannia, throwing out her arms, as if in a tempest of fury, at four winged urchins, intended to represent post-boys, letter-carriers or Mercuries but who, instead of making use of their wings and flying, appear in the act of striking out or swimming".

Within six months the Mulready envelope was dead, killed by ridicule. So complete was the public's rejection that almost the entire stock had to be destroyed by a machine constructed for the purpose.

Richard Sachs

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## His Nibs finds a market still exists for his wares

by Bevis Hillier

Mr Philip Poole's pen shop at 182 Drury Lane, London, looks as if it has been there for at least a century. The window display is dominated by what he calls "the pyramid"—a sort of ziggurat of ancient pen nibs. Around it are venerable inkpots, wipers, pen trays and wizened old advertisements for pens: the Pen of India, the Meteor, the Colonial Pen, the Light Brigade Pen, the Velvet Pen, the Legal Pen.

In fact he has been there for only 18 months; for the previous 40 years he sold pens and nibs in Sicilian Avenue, Bloomsbury. His old shop has been destroyed in a rebuilding scheme.

Mr Poole's visiting card is printed "His Nibs", a title conferred on him by *The Times* diary just over a year ago. At first he thought it derogatory, but friends convinced him it was an honourable title. It is certainly an apt one: Mr Poole not only sells nibs but has made an astonishing and picturesque collection of them. He has some 5,000 nibs in all.

His Nibs was born in Kensington, London, in 1909. He began work as an office boy in a paper merchant's and drifted into the pen trade, which was then flourishing.

There has of course been an acute decline in the demand for the kind of pens he mainly sells. The growing popularity of the ballpoint pen since the 1940s, and later the felt-tip pen, have undermined the trade.

(He magnanimously includes one early ballpoint in his collection.)

But there is still a demand for his wares. "Cartoonists use pen nibs: Ralph Steadman, for example, is very attached to one pen nib which he has used all his life and says it is the tool of his trade and he must have it."

"I said: 'Well, it hasn't been made for 30 years', and he said, 'You must get them from somewhere'."

"I still have a small stock of them. Music writers also use pen nibs for their work. And calligraphers, of course. They get attached to a certain pen for its flexibility and so on. Though I've noticed that some of these professional calligraphers don't have very good ordinary handwriting."

His own writing is very regular and elegant.

Mr Poole's collection is divided into categories, neatly arranged in boxes. "These things are generally regarded as rubbish. People phone me and say: 'You don't really collect pen nibs, do you?' They're thinking of a pen nib that perhaps they used as a catapult at school. The manufacturers themselves are quite astonished, mystified; they can't believe that anyone can go to the trouble of saving this rubbish which they've thrown away."

In the first box he showed me, all the nibs had relief portraits of famous people: Goethe, Lord Beaconsfield, Bismarck, Garibaldi. Most of them were made by Brandauer of Birmingham in the 1860s or 1870s. A more recent one of King Charles I of Württemberg bears the mark of Carl Kühn, the Vienna agent of Brandauer. One stamped with a head of Queen Victoria was made by William Mitchell. Another Brandauer pen, with a rather nebulous draped figure, is called "The Virgin Pen".

Several of the nibs have decorative perforations, in the shape of exclamation marks, crosses, the ace of clubs, or crossed laurels. The best of these, which have a hole in themselves, are pierced with virtuoso filigree work.

Another box contains the *magnum bonum* nibs, which have a steel socket that fits over the penholder. I noticed that one of them bore the name of Joseph Gillott, whose name was familiar to me from nibs I had used (not catapults) at school.

He was one of the early manufacturers. Mr Poole said. There was some drama associated with him. William Mitchell worked with his brother, John Mitchell. They had a sister named Sarah who worked with them in the business, and she went off and married Joseph Gillott, their chief competitor.

"I've had the great-great-grandson of Joseph Gillott in here. The firm of Gillott still exists but they don't make pen nibs any more: they sold that part of their business to British Pens. Now they make pencil sharpeners, castors for chairs, and things like that."

The early history of pen nibs is given by one Henry Bore in *The Story of the Invention of Steel Pens* (1892), which Mr Poole has reprinted. It is incidentally almost as unacceptable to speak of "pen nibs" as of

"riding on horseback": the correct term is "steel pen", which took over from quills. Mr Poole still sells quills too, but in the old days the quill was often a do-it-yourself job, as some doggerel by Tom Hood recalled:

In times bygone when each man cut his quill,  
With little Perryian skill,  
What horrid, awkward,  
Bungling tools of trade  
Appeared the writing instru-  
ments, home made!

What pens were sliced,  
hewed,  
haggled out,  
Slit or unslit, with many a  
various snout.  
Aquila, Roman, crooked,  
square, and snubby,  
Humpty and stubby:  
Some capable of lady-  
billetts neat,  
Some only fit for ledger-  
keeping clerk.

And some to grub down,  
Peter Stubbs, his mark,  
Or smudge through some  
illegible receipt....

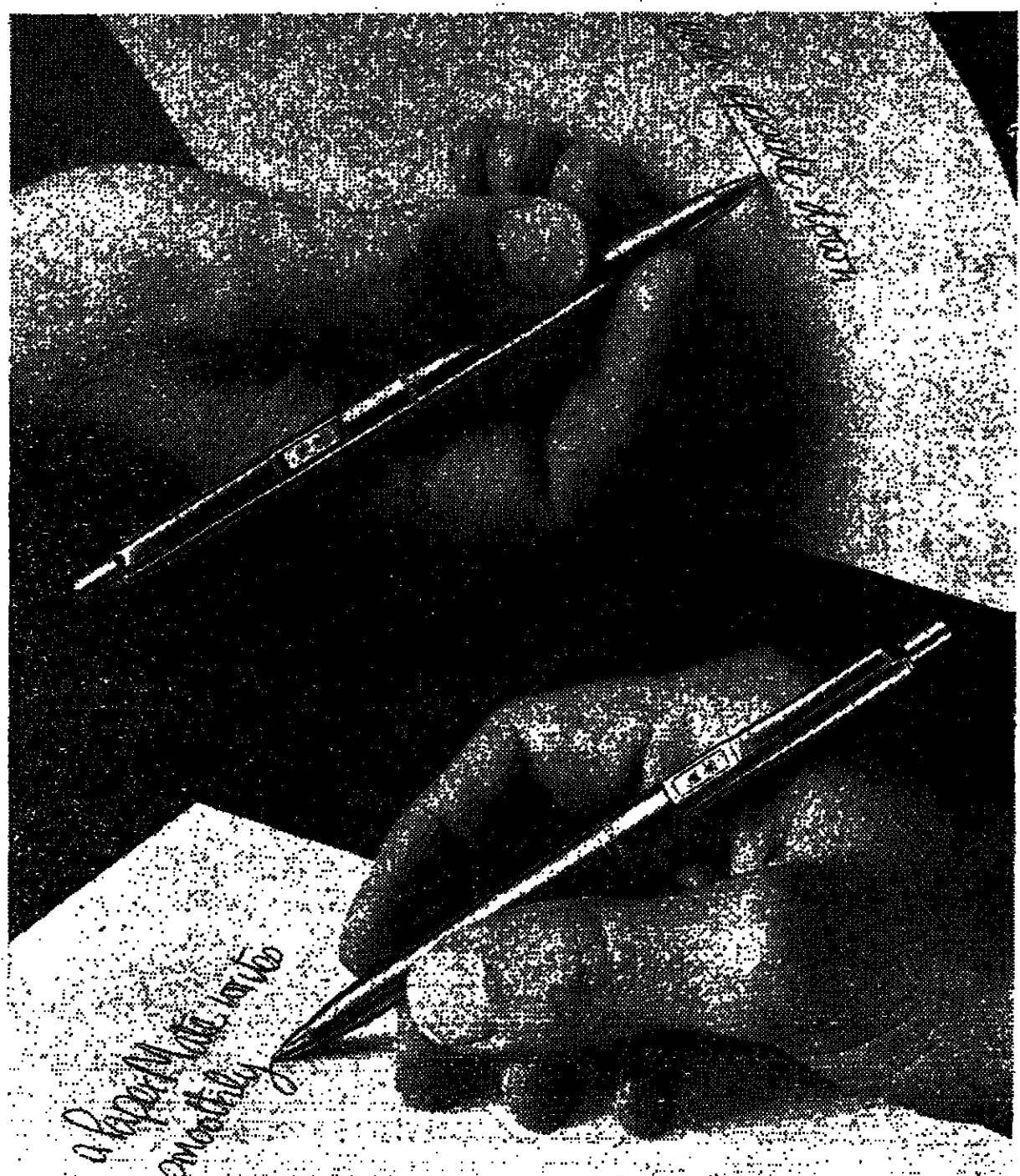
Mr Poole thinks that the earliest metal nib in his collection probably dates from the 1830s. He also owns a traveller's sample case dated 1849. It belonged to the agent of S. Levy & Co., the Birmingham Sheet Steel Pen Works in Brussels.

His Nibs is still adding to his collection. Treasures occasionally turn up, such as nibs in the shape of a hand or the Eiffel Tower, or decorated with two figures dancing a polka or with an early locomotive. A particular prize was a nib made by Perry & Company, the manufacturers mentioned in Hood's verse; stamped with the Vatican crossed keys and the Papal triple crown, it is called "The Pius X Pen".

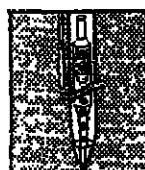
But Mr Poole is also diversifying into antique fountain pens, inkwells, books on calligraphy and advertisements. His favourite advertisement is the Victorian placard for MacNiven and Cameron of Birmingham:

They come as a Boon and a Blessing to Men:  
The Pickwick, the Owl and the Waverley Pen.  
A Victorian was composed a pastiche of this:

They come as a Boon and a Blessing to Women:  
The Camberwell Baths for Ladies to swim in.  
"There's a dirtier one",  
His Nibs said. He looked it up. It was a Second World War rhyme:  
They come as a Boon and a Blessing to Men:  
The Blackout, the Torch and the Cute Little Wren.



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## Law Report

December 1 1977

**Westinghouse Electric Corporation Uranium Contract Litigation** MDL Docket 235.

Before Lord Wilberforce, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and Lord Keith of Kintyre.

An attempt by the United States Attorney General to obtain testimony from British subjects for the purposes of an investigation into possible criminal violations of United States anti-trust laws after those persons had obtained a ruling from a United States judge that they could rely on the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution by declining to give evidence which might incriminate them was castigated by the House of Lords as an unacceptable invasion of United Kingdom sovereignty.

Their Lordships allowed interlocutory appeals by two English companies, Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation Ltd and RTZ Services Ltd, and seven of nine named persons described as present or former company directors or employees against the Court of Appeal's decision. The Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ruskell and Lord Justice Byrne (The Times, May 27, 1977) 3 WLR 430) giving effect to some modifications, to two orders rogiatory issued by a United States District Court judge in Virginia requesting the High Court in London to issue process causing named persons to appear before a United States consular officer in London to be examined orally as witnesses in civil proceedings in Virginia and requiring companies by their proper officers to produce at the examination documents listed in a schedule to the letters rogiatory. Those letters were issued on applications by Westinghouse Electric Corporation, a United States company, and actions by other companies for damages for failure to perform contracts to build nuclear power stations and only them with uranium. The letters sought was of an alleged international cartel which big profits of uranium, including the RTZ companies, had formed to regulate the price and output of uranium and limit competition. Their Lordships also dismissed appeals by Westinghouse from the Court of Appeal (The Times, July 1, 1977) 3 WLR 492) which had held a claim by the two RTZ companies to privilege against self-incrimination under the common law and section 14 of the Civil Evidence Act, 1968, on the ground of production of certain of the documents in proceedings to which they were not parties but which required as witnesses might open to penal proceedings under EEC Treaty articles and laws.

After those judgments had been given, seven of the individual named persons claimed privilege against giving oral evidence which might incriminate them, relying on protection of the Fifth Amendment and on the 14th they obtained a ruling from the United States District Court judge that they were entitled to that privilege and need answer no questions other than give their names and addresses.

## RTZ executives need not give evidence in US uranium case

In July the Attorney General for the United States required under United States law that the witnesses in question should, in the extraordinary circumstances, while being given immunity against criminal prosecution, give evidence for the purposes of a grand jury investigation into possible criminal violations of United States anti-trust laws by members of the alleged uranium cartel.

The District Judge made an order, as he was obliged to do under United States law, compelling testimony to be given by the named witnesses in the grand jury investigation.

As that matter had not arisen until all the proceedings in the courts below had been concluded, the House of Lords dealt with it as a fifth appeal by one of the named persons; and the Attorney General intervened on behalf of her Majesty's Government.

Mr Kenneth Jackson, QC, and Mr Michael Barton for RTZ, Mr John Vinelott, QC, and Mr Timothy Walker for Westinghouse; Mr Samuel Salkin, QC, Attorney General, Mr Harry Woolf and Mr Nicholas Brazz for the Crown.

LORD WILBERFORCE said that in 1976 certain Creightmore made an ex parte order under section 2 of the Evidence (Proceedings in Other Jurisdictions) Act, 1975, giving effect to letters rogiatory issued out of the Virginia district court at Richmond at the instance of Westinghouse, defendants in a number of civil actions by utility companies producing electricity, alleging breaches of contract by Westinghouse for the supply of uranium and claiming a sum of \$2,000,000 in damages. Westinghouse put forward a declaration of impracticability arising from an alleged uranium producers' cartel. The letters rogiatory, addressed to the High Court, sought the examination of nine named persons described as present or former directors or employees of the two RTZ companies, or of such other director or other person who had knowledge of the facts as to which evidence is desired.

They also sought the production of documents according to a lengthy schedule alleged to be in the possession of the RTZ companies. The present appeals were brought by the RTZ companies and seven of the nine named persons claiming that the order giving effect to the letters rogiatory set aside or discharged.

Their application was rejected by Mr Justice Blackburn. The Court of Appeal dismissed their appeal but ordered amendments to the schedule of documents to be deleted of certain categories of documents. The court also ruled in favour of the companies that penalties provided for by Article 15 of regulation 17 of the EEC General Regulations for breach of Articles 85-86 of the Treaty of Rome (restrictive or concerted practices) constituted a "penalty" within the meaning of section 14 of the Civil Evidence Act, 1968, so as to found a claim for privilege against the production of the documents. The RTZ companies now applied against the first part of the order and Westinghouse against the second.

Since the Court of Appeal decided the individual named persons claimed privilege under the Fifth Amendment.

There were proceedings under the letters rogiatory at the United States Embassy. The RTZ companies claimed privilege against production of all (save six) of the scheduled documents on the ground that it would tend to expose them to proceedings for the recovery of a penalty. The claims were challenged by Westinghouse, but the Court of Appeal upheld it, and Westinghouse now appealed.

There were thus three main issues. (1) Ought the master's order to have been set aside? (2) Could the RTZ companies claim privilege against production of the documents? (3) Could the individual named persons claim privilege against self-incrimination?

The 1975 Act was passed to give effect to the principles of The Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence abroad in Civil and Commercial Matters of 1970, which the United Kingdom ratified in 1976. United States procedure gave wider powers of pre-trial discovery than England allows persons not parties to a suit.

His Lordship referred to *Radio Corporation of America v. Rundell Corporation* (1956) 1 QB 618 in which Mr Justice Devlin drew a distinction between material immediately relevant to the issue in dispute and material which would be relevant to the issue in dispute only if it were established that the Convention enabled a state to require the production of documents by non-party witnesses. They were not to countenance "fishing" expeditions.

His Lordship said much doubt whether the letters rogiatory ought not to be rejected altogether. They ranged exceedingly widely and undoubtedly extended into areas to which was forbidden by English law. Who would be given for supposing that at least some of the individual witnesses could have supplied relevant evidence to the grand jury? The schedule of documents extended far beyond "particular documents specified in the order" in section 2(4)(b) of the 1975 Act.

On the other hand, the schedule did list a number of particular and specified documents which came into the possession of Westinghouse from an environmentalist group. The Friends of the Earth in September, 1976, were claimed to amount to hard evidence of a uranium producers' cartel. Some might be in the possession of one of the RTZ companies or of a subsidiary over which they had power, and many appeared on the schedule to be relevant to the issue of a uranium cartel. They might be relevant to Westinghouse's defence of commercial impracticability. The Court of Appeal had applied a

"blue pencil" by amendment of the scheduled documents. His Lordship would have applied the blue pencil even more vigorously, so as to leave in the schedule only "particular documents specified" together with replies to letters where such must have been sent.

With regard to the named individual witnesses, some, employed by the RTZ companies, appeared from the scheduled documents to have attended or to have knowledge of meetings of uranium producers at which matters relevant to the existence of a cartel might have been discussed.

On that question His Lordship would conclude that following the spirit of the Act, which was to enable judicial assistance to be given to foreign courts, the letters rogiatory should be given effect to so far as possible; and that could be done subject to a severe reduction in the documents to be produced, and the disallowance of certain of the witnesses.

Could the RTZ companies claim privilege against production of the documents requested under section 14 of the Act? The answer was to be given on the basis of privilege against self-incrimination and not on the basis of English law. On that the Lordship agreed with the Court of Appeal decisions and their reasoning, which established that it was impossible by the EEC Commission under Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome to require persons to give evidence against self-incrimination and are outside the jurisdiction of the United States courts.

It was clear, because of the persons are British subjects and we have determined that it is highly unlikely that their testimony could be obtained through existing arrangements for law enforcement cooperation between the United States and the United Kingdom.

On July 18 Judge Mehrege made an order compelling testimony. On July 25 Mr Baylis declined to answer questions on the ground that he wished to seek the assistance of the English court. It was now for the House to decide whether in the light of that situation, the letters rogiatory should be given effect. His Lordship's clear opinion that effect should not be given. So far as the Richmond civil proceedings were concerned, a ruling had been given that the witnesses were entitled to the Fifth Amendment privilege. That accorded with the 1975 Act. When privilege before a United States consular officer in London designated to take evidence under the letters rogiatory, Judge Mehrege came to London. All seven witnesses claimed the privilege, and on June 14 the judge ruled that the privilege was well taken and that the witnesses need answer no questions.

On June 15 Judge Mehrege received a letter from the United States Department of Justice stating that it requested the attendance of the witnesses for a grand jury investigation in Washington

into possible violations of anti-trust laws by members of the alleged uranium cartel. The letter represented that such depositions might be the sole opportunity for the grand jury to obtain information vital to its investigation. It also said that the department would not use the testimony of any witness as the basis for a criminal prosecution of him in the United States. A representative of the United States Attorney General stated before Judge Mehrege that it was the department's firm policy not to apply for such an order in a civil case to which the United States Government was not a party. Judge Mehrege was invited to rule that in the light of the representation in the letter the Fifth Amendment privilege was no longer available. He declined, and ruled that the privilege was still effective.

On July 18 the department applied to Judge Mehrege in Richmond for an order to compel their testimony.

An accompanying letter headed "Grand Jury Investigation of the Uranium Industry", authorised an application to the judge requiring a named witness to give testimony or provide other information in the above matter and any further proceedings resulting therefrom or ancillary thereto.

His Lordship stated, after all, that the testimony of the individuals for whom orders are to be sought is necessary to the public interest, because of the extraordinary circumstances which included the following: The witnesses have refused to testify on the basis of privilege against self-incrimination and are outside the jurisdiction of the United States courts.

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## Equal pay legislation overrides wages policy

Hebbes and Another v Rank Before Mr Justice Kilner Brown: Mr S. C. Marley and Mrs A. L. T. Taylor.

The fact that the implementation of a job evaluation scheme would breach the Government's pay policy was not a valid ground for refusing to raise the salaries of two men to the equivalent of women employees on similarly rated work. Statutes like the Equal Pay Act, 1970, and the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, had to take precedence over Government policy, which was not statutory in origin.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed appeals by Mr Barrie Scott Hebbes, a spare order entry clerk, and Mr James Ernest Clay, an instrument laboratory test technician, from a decision of an Ashford industrial tribunal that their employers, Rank Huger, scientific instrument manufacturers, of Margate, had not contravened the Equal Pay Act or the Sex Discrimination Act by failing to implement a job evaluation study which would have increased their salaries.

MR JUSTICE KILNER BROWN said that the industrial tribunal had not given sufficient attention to the effect of section 1(5) of the Equal Pay Act and to the consequences where there had been a job evaluation exercise. In general, there had been a job evaluation exercise properly carried out and accepted its consequences ought not to be avoided.

In 1974 the employers, in agreement with the union, agreed to carry out a points assessment of all jobs. The assessment was below top grades. An analysis of the female rates for jobs of equal points value with the men showed that most women were below the lower end of the payment range for men. Subsequently women's salaries were brought into the band, although at the lower level. Later a performance appraisal system was introduced for the women and their salaries were increased so that

the views of the United States executive compelled the making of the order, so must the views of the United Kingdom executive be considered. It was a question of implementing the order here. It was axiomatic that in anti-trust matters the policy of one state might be to defend what it was the policy of another state to attack.

The Attorney General's intervention established that quite apart from the present case, over a number of years and in a number of cases, the policy of the United Kingdom Government had been against recognition of United States investigatory jurisdiction extra-territorially against United Kingdom companies. The courts should in such matters speak with the same voice as the executive: they had no difficulty in doing so.

For those reasons his Lordship was of opinion that recognition should not be given to the order of July 18 in relation to the individual witnesses and that the

they achieved a similar salary spread to the men.

As a result of the evaluation scheme and associated performance appraisal scheme for women an equal pay agreement was made in June, 1976. A similar appraisal had been carried out with regard to male employees but had not been implemented because of the employer's fears that to do so would run counter to the Government's current pay policy.

Mr Hebbes and Mr Clay submitted that the basic pay for their jobs should be compared with the job rated with the same number of points. If a similarly rated job was done by a woman and she was paid more, it followed that there was not equal pay for equal work. They said that the effect of the job evaluation scheme was that the job was worth what the women were paid and that they were entitled to be paid the same as the women.

One of the employers' reasons for not increasing the men's salaries was that there would have been an infringement of Government pay policy. That would not do. Statutes took precedence over Government policy which was not statutory in origin.

The employers submitted that, given time and a free hand, they would have increased the men's pay to the same level as the women's for a similarly evaluated job—an argument accepted by the industrial tribunal. But the law was clear and the question was whether there was a difference in pay between comparable men and women doing similar work. The Appeal Tribunal were of the opinion that once a job evaluation scheme was embarked on and there was a reappraisal for one sex, any difference in pay between men and women for a similarly rated job had to be put right at once, whichever sex was on the lower pay scale. There had been a reappraisal of the men's pay but it had not been activated. There was, accordingly, discrimination.

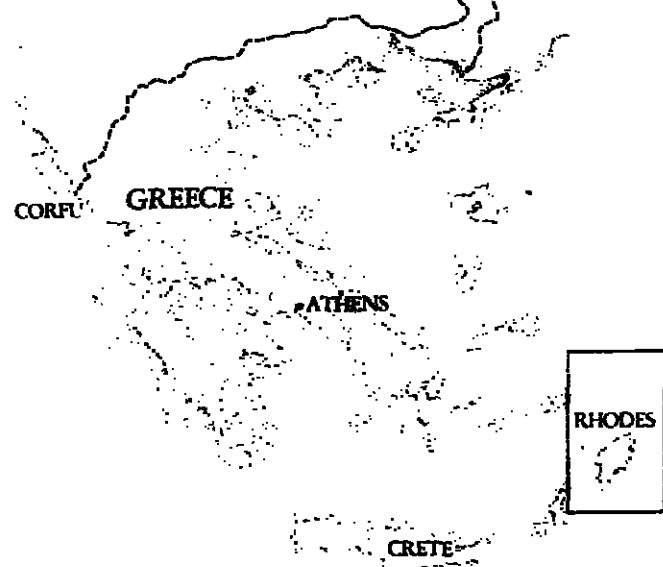
His Lordship would allow the appeals of the RTZ companies and of the individual appellants and order that the master's order giving effect to the letters rogiatory be discharged. He would dismiss the appeals of Westinghouse.

Viscount Dilhorne delivered a speech for allowing the appeals of the English appellants and dismissing the Westinghouse's appeals. Lord Diplock, concurring in the result, said that he would set aside the master's order so far as it related to rewording of documents by the RTZ companies. Lord Keith delivered a speech concurring with that of Lord Diplock.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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### Shipyard workers asked to 'black' Polish orders lost by Swan Hunter

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

Shipyard workers throughout Britain were asked to "black" any of the seven Polish vessels worth £52m which are being transferred from the Swan Hunter yards on Tyne-side, to other yards because of an overtime ban by 1,700 out-fitting workers there.

Today telegrams will be sent to those yards which have benefited, or are likely to benefit, from the loss of the contracts to Swan Hunter.

Earlier this week a recommendation that the outfit workers lift their overtime ban. Letters are also being sent to all shipyards throughout the country calling on workers not to cooperate in the building of any transferred vessels.

This latest move by the outfit workers' shop stewards was a widening of the dispute which had already badly dented the industry's reputation overseas. It came at a time when executives of British Shipbuilders were hoping for a change of heart by the weekend would still allow at least some of the seven ships to be confirmed with Swan Hunter.

Drugsmen at the Tyne-side yard who drew up the plans for the 16,500 ton dead-weight ships which form part of the £115m deal have also refused to allow plans of the ships to leave the Wallsend

yard in a further attempt to prevent the ships being re-assigned to other yards.

The campaign was stepped up yesterday at a meeting between the outfitters and the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Sections of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Mr David Hanson, chairman of the shop stewards committee, said: "We are asking yards that could get the work not to touch any work that should have come to the Tyne."

Yards which will receive telegrams include Govan Shipbuilders (which has already been allocated one of the seven ships), Austin & Pickersell and Sunderland Shipbuilders on the river Wear, and Smith's Dock on the Tees.

Shop stewards at Govan have adopted a wait and see posture towards the switching of the order after approaches from the Tyne-side shop stewards and workers' representatives at Govan. They will meet again next week to review the order in the light of further developments on Tyne-side.

But last night Mr Ken Baker, a part-time member of the British Shipbuilders' board and national officer of the General and Municipal Workers Union, called on the industry's workers to "think very carefully" before refusing to handle any of the diverted orders.

### NEB set profit target of 15 to 20 pc by 1981

By Edward Townsend

The National Enterprise Board has given a target of a 15-20 per cent return on its investments by 1981. But the requirement specifically excludes British Leyland, its largest subsidiary, and Rolls-Royce, the Department of Industry, with Treasury approval. They were revealed to MPs yesterday in a written answer from Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry.

The target has been based on the NEB's forecast that the return on capital employed throughout manufacturing industry in 1981 will be about 20 per cent.

But the board said that Mr Varley had recognized that its purposes would be to raise the level of commercial enterprises and was able in appropriate cases

to take a long-term view of investment opportunities.

As a result, the NEB has been given the target of 15-20 per cent and urged by Mr Varley to achieve a result "at least as good as this, and to the maintenance of steady progress towards that objective."

The responsibility does not cover NEB loans to companies in which it has no share investment or rights to buy shares, or to government aid under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975. NEB holdings in Leyland and Rolls-Royce are to be judged separately at a later date.

Under the terms of the NEB guidelines, the board is already required to charge interest on loans it makes to subsidiaries or other companies at a rate not less than that paid by commercial companies when raising finance.

### Desire for financial independence turned to 'money-making for its own sake' How Crown Agents took high-risk way to ruin

By Bryan Appleyard

The Fay Report on the Crown Agents tells the story of an organization chasing financial independence and grabbing at the opportunity presented by the fringe banking and property boom of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"The agents' remarkable will to live" pushed them into a critical change in their financial operation in 1966.

Previously profits from services had been distributed to the foreign government principals on a cooperative

Chronicle of catastrophe, page 23  
Report summaries, page 24

basis. This was abandoned in favour of a policy of building up a reserve of £3m by the end of 1971.

This was a move towards business independence and Fay accepts the motives as genuine enough. The timing, however, was the real problem.

The Crown Agents began to feel their own financial muscles at precisely the time when the mass of fringe banks and mushrooming property companies sprang up, all offering investment opportunities and looking for loans.

Once the process was started it moved quickly and by 1969 Fay observes the original motive for the adventures had been lost and replaced by "the satisfaction of money-making for its own sake".



Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, at yesterday's press conference. With her is Mr John Cuckney, Senior Crown Agent

A vehicle called Finvest was set up and total liabilities "of the order of £50m" were accumulated after 18 months. The first property lending was in July 1967 and the first fringe bank appeared in October 1968 in the form of the First National Finance Corporation which was lent £1.1m.

In spite of the fact that there was only one accountant on the staff until November 1970, and the first fringe bank to have been remarkably few. One did ring at the Bank of England in 1969.

Since the 1950s the Agents had had a special arrangement with the Bank that allowed them to deal in Treasury bills later in the day than other customers. This was aimed at helping foreign governments to invest funds promptly.

In 1969 the Bank discovered this was being used for "own-account deals" and withdrew the facility. The Bank expressed concern to the Treasury, but its signal did not get as far as the Stevenson Committee. Fay believes this committee's line would have been much harder if the message had got through.

In the years that followed up to the eve of the property and banking crash the pattern was one of casual involvement in high risk ventures that were turned down by others even in those heady days.

The Table of Losses in the Fay Report adds up to £195.4m and is headed by £42.6m on the English and Continental Group, £41.2m on the Stern companies, £33.1m on Australian property development, £10m on Sterling Industrial Securities, £8.6m on Sassoons Bahamas, £6m on Triumph Investment Trust and C. T. Whyte.

Fay's conclusions point largely to the "financial authorities' failure to recognize and react to the impending crisis but the City is clearly involved by a minute from Finvest's own board meeting of May 1967. Quoted in the report it said: "Arising out of the high standing of the Crown Agents in financial circles we were now being approached by banks etc. wishing to lodge money with us at short notice."

### Japanese curbs on rise of the yen push reserves to record \$22,150m

By Caroline Atkinson

Japan's reserves soared by \$2,570m (about £1,427m) in November to a record level of \$22,150m.

This is the second largest jump in their reserves ever recorded and results from the strenuous attempts of the Bank of Japan to hold down the value of the yen.

These attempts were at first largely unsuccessful. The yen appreciated to new highs on the foreign exchanges during last month.

However, in the last few days, the rate has come back. It closed last night at 242.8 to the dollar.

Speculative inflows of money

into Japan have swelled recently the official reserves in the same way as happened in Britain this year while the Government was trying to keep a lid on the sterling exchange.

The \$5,430m rise in Japan's reserves over the last year, is considerably below that in Britain.

Most of the rise in Japan has come in the last two months as the dollar has been falling and foreign currency dealers have switched into yen.

Despite the official intervention, the yen has climbed by about 10 per cent against the dollar since the end of September.

It is also thought that the

Japanese authorities have built up considerable "hidden" reserves. The fall in the yen in the past few days is largely due to the market's expectation that substantial measures to lower Japan's trade surplus will be announced in a government package next Tuesday.

The dollar was generally weaker again yesterday as new positions were taken up at the beginning of the month. It fell to DM2.213, and 2.1425 Swiss francs.

Sterling also lost ground in effective terms, losing 0.2 points on the trade weighted index to close at 63.3. It gained 5 points against the dollar at 1.8175.

### Barclays raises rate to depositors to 4½ pc

By Ronald Pullen  
Banking Correspondent

With the more settled outlook for interest rates, Barclays Bank yesterday decided to move into line with National Westminster's lead earlier this week in raising its base rate 1½ points to 7½ per cent.

At the same time Barclays is raising its rate on savings bank deposits a full 1½ points to 4½ per cent, the highest level of all the High Street banks.

Following the Bank of England statement yesterday that it saw no reason for further rise in minimum lending rate today, the money markets calmed down, with three-month interbank rate shading back to 7 per cent and three-month Treasury bills stabilizing at 6½ per cent.

Mr Douglas Horner, senior general manager of Barclays, said that with the Bank removing the uncertainty over interest rates "we are able to take a considered view of the right level for base rate". Barclays

also apparently feels that as the margin between base and deposit rates widened when rates fell earlier this year it was right to give deposit customers the benefit of a similar 1½-point rise.

Meanwhile, the Trustee Savings Bank and the Co-operative Bank have both followed Lloyds in raising their base rates from 5 to 7 per cent and deposit rates from 3 to 4 per cent, although Grindlays has moved its base rate up 1½ points to 7½ per cent but has kept the rate on deposit at 1 point, at 4 per cent.

Both Lloyds and Midland, whose base rate increase of 3 points to 6½ per cent is the most aggressive of the clearers, are leading by their decisions.

Although money market rates are indicating a 7½ per cent base rate, Lloyds and Midland are likely to wait at least a fortnight before moving into line in order to see what is happening to lending and deposits at the branch level.

### Peachy switch completed

By Our Financial Staff

Restructuring of the board of Peachey Property has been completed with the resignation of Mr Michael Kennell and Mr Stephen Thompson.

With the exception of Lord Mair, who succeeded the late Sir Eric Miller as chairman of the company in March, the remaining directors were all appointed this year.

Mr Thompson, who was a director for a long time is to remain as an employee of the

company assisting in the management of its residential property. Mr Kennell, the former finance director, was elected to the board during the 1975-76 financial year.

Mr John Brown, former chief executive of Artagen Properties and now managing director of Peachey, said the company would now be concentrating on its property portfolio. There may be more appointments to the board, he said.

### Lords ruling backs RTZ in American cartel case

By Desmond Quigley

Attempts by the United States Justice Department to force Rio Tinto-Zinc, the United Kingdom based international mining group, to provide information on the activities of a uranium cartel "constitute an invasion of sovereignty of the United Kingdom", Lord Dilhorne declared in the House of Lords yesterday.

He was giving judgment, with four other law lords in a series of appeals taken to the House of Lords by RTZ and Westinghouse Electric Corporation, the world's largest nuclear reactor manufacturer.

The law lords unanimously held that neither RTZ nor seven directors, including Sir Mark Turner, the chairman, and senior executives were obliged to present written oral evidence under letters rogatory in a case in Richmond, Virginia.

Westinghouse was ordered to pay the costs of the Lords proceedings. Total costs for the series of court actions which have been heard in Britain this year in this case are estimated to run to about £250,000.

After judgment had been given, RTZ commented that the "judgment vindicates the position RTZ has taken over the past year of litigation in the English courts". The company's shares rose 4p to 190p yesterday.

The action centres on a declaration in 1975 by Westinghouse that it was unable to fulfil its uranium delivery contracts. Westinghouse is being sued in Virginia by several utilities (power companies) and faces a potential liability of up to \$2,000m (about £1,100m).

In its defence it has in part alleged that it was the victim of an international uranium cartel, of which RTZ is alleged to have been a member.

When Westinghouse sought to obtain evidence from RTZ directors, they pleaded the Fifth Amendment (an American legal device to avoid self-incrimination). The Justice Department then granted immunity from prosecution in an attempt to force the directors to testify.

Concurrently with the Virginia action, a grand jury investigation, which is being held into the activities of uranium producers.

Lord Dilhorne found that it was "now clear beyond doubt" that the Justice Department had offered immunity of prosecution so as to acquire evidence for the grand jury investigation. He considered that this would render a company's privilege of little value and that the matter should be considered when the revision of company law was proposed.

The RTZ group and several other uranium producers still face an action brought by Westinghouse in Illinois, in which Westinghouse is seeking triple damages, which could be as much as \$60,000m. RTZ denies liability and with the exception of two companies domiciled in the United States also denies the jurisdiction of the Illinois Court.

Law Report, page 20

### BP third quarter disappoints

By Christopher Wilkins

After two quarters of better-than-expected results, British Petroleum went into reverse in the third quarter. Earnings for the first nine months of the year as a whole are up from £1,214m to £2,100m, but the third quarter income was down from £51.9m last year to £44.1m. This was well below most stock market forecasts, and BP's shares fell 20p to 900p.

Total volume sales of 42.8 million tonnes changed from the comparable period last year. Compared with the second quarter, when earnings were much higher at 75.5m, sales were 3.6 per cent up.

Part of the profit dip is due to the weakness of the dollar against sterling, but the most important factor has been the low level of world-wide economic activity, especially in Europe where there is a surplus of shipping and distillation capacity.

As a result crude oil prices have been depressed while costs have continued to rise. Net sales proceeds were up from £2,632m to £2,956m in the third quarter, but costs were up by about £300m.

Next Tuesday share holders in BP will have to subscribe £290m, representing the second call on the £564m offer of shares by the Bank of England during the summer. Yesterday was the last day for dealing in the shares in partly-paid form and they closed 5p higher at 380p.

Financial Editor, page 23

### SEC respite for trading rules

Washington, Dec 1  
Mr Harold Williams, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, announced here today that the commission had decided to delay plans to eliminate rules that restricted off-board trading in listed securities.

The SEC's plans, which involved elimination of these restrictive rules on January 1, have been a prime cause of a large number of mergers in the brokerage industry in recent months, as well as the cause of great anxiety.

### Early release of pledged state funds for planning construction projects forecast

Some of the £400m promised by the Government for construction from April next year may now be made available before that date, industry leaders were told yesterday.

Mr Gordon Graham, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and a member of an eight-man all-industry delegation which met Mr Healey yesterday, said that the Chancellor was now prepared to release money which would allow preplanning of large projects to begin in the near future.

He had also accepted the delegation's argument that some civil engineering maintenance and rehabilitation work, both of which would have an immediate impact on unemployment, should go ahead before April, Mr Graham added.

Details of how this or possibly additional cash should be made available will be discussed further with Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, who also attended the meeting.

Mr Graham said that Mr

Healey had been told strongly that despite the aid already announced for the industry it was still in decline, and the increase in unemployment had not been arrested. Although Mr Healey's undertaking will have no immediate effect on these trends, it will do something to boost the confidence of the industry.

The meeting with the Chancellor follows earlier delegations to the Prime Minister and Mr Shore, and the group was anxious to use the opportunity to show Mr Healey, and his Treasury advisers how the industry works and how it is affected by economic and fiscal policies.

The delegation stressed the need for a stable expansion of work, which it felt had too frequently in the past been used by the Government as an economic regulator.

The Chancellor, Mr Graham said, accepted that the industry had suffered disproportionately from Government policy changes in recent years.

More specifically, the dele-

gation was seeking a framework in which the industry could plan ahead and meet the needs of the economy. It raised, for instance, the role of the Public Expenditure Survey Committee figures and the industrial strategy as a means of estimating the requirements of industry.

Other members of the delegation were Mr Peter Galliford, chairman of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors; Mr George Henderson, operations secretary of the Civil Engineering Construction Council; Mr David Male, president of quantity surveyors division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; Mr Peter Morley, president of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers; Mr Alan Muir Wood, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers; Mr Jeremy Rowe, chairman of the National Council of Material Producers; and Mr George Smith, operations secretary of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry.

### Higher cost of private pensions

By Margaret Stone

Long-term costs of the new state pension scheme will be a much bigger burden on private pension plans which have contracted out of the scheme than anyone had foreseen.

Calculations by the Government Actuary on the rearing of contributions announced yesterday show that although the rate for the National Insurance scheme will, after dropping to 15.7 per cent of defined earnings by 1992, will rise to no more than the present 16.5 per cent. Contracted out schemes will have to pay much more to it by 2003-2008.

At present there is a combined (in respect of both employees and employers) contribution which allows for the fact that contracted out schemes and not the state will be picking up the bill for the guaranteed minimum pension related pension to which everyone will be entitled.

The rebate remains at 7 per cent until 1982-83, but thereafter it drops sharply to 4.8 per cent by 2003-2008. This means that by then the combined reduced contribution rate for contracted out employees will reduce increase from the present 9.5 per cent to 11.1 per cent at the turn of the century and 11.7 per cent a few years later.

To some extent the increased contribution rate is one expected corollary of the declining birthrate. There will be fewer wage-earners supporting more pensioners.

The increased contribution rate is also a reflection of the consequences of inflation-proof pensions. Once the guaranteed minimum pension becomes payable it is the state which pays for any subsequent increases which will be necessary if it is to keep its value.

### N Sea safety vessel

Sedco/Phillips SS, the world's first purpose-built semi-submersible fire-fighting vessel has arrived in Norway before going into service at the Phillips group's Ekofisk complex in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea. The \$40m (£22m) vessel was built in Japan.

### How the markets moved

The Times index : 200.64-0.30  
The FT index : 479.8-1.2

#### Rises

Bass Charrington 10p to 10½p  
Deutsche 3p to 3½p  
Gibbs A 3p to 3½p  
Ingall Ind 2p to 2½p  
Normand Elect 3p to 40p  
Press W 2p to 2½p  
Roxon 1p to 1½p

#### Falls

Bejan 20p to 65p  
BP old 20p to 900p  
Duncan W 5p to 37p  
Furness Withy 10p to 32½p  
Glaxo 8p to 35½p  
Johnson Matt 10p to 44p  
Nat of Aust 10p to 20½p

Schroders 10p to 42½p  
Stimson S 10p to 97p  
Ede Forbes 8p to 36p  
Staffer 1p to 16p  
Venterspost 7p to 24½p  
Vickers 2p to 18½p  
Warrington T 2p to 30p

Oil Explor 8p to 31½p  
Rothmans B 2p to 50p  
Shell 7p to 35½p  
Sidlav 4p to 98p  
Sun Alliance 7p to 33½p  
Trough Mines 5p to 17½p  
Utd Dom Tst 2p to 42p

#### THE POUND

Bank of England 1.85 1.81  
Australia S 30.50 28.50  
Austria S 30.50 28.50  
Belgium Fr 66.00 63.00  
Canada \$ 2.05 2.00  
Denmark Kr 11.45 11.00  
Finland Mk 7.25 7.00  
France Fr 9.07 8.75  
Germany Dm 4.22 3.99  
Greece Dr 78.50 74.00  
Hong Kong \$ 3.40 3.25  
Italy L 162.00 157.00  
Japan Yn 465.00 440.00  
Netherlands Gld 4.54 4.32  
Norway Kr 10.05 9.70  
Portugal Esc 78.50 74.50  
S Africa Rd 1.84 1.72  
Spain Pes 156.50 150.50  
Sweden Kr 9.00 8.65  
Switzerland Fr 4.10 3.88  
Yugoslavia Dnr 38.75 36.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, which are supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank (London). (Differentials apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.)

Gold was unchanged at \$160.125 an ounce.  
SDR's was 1.18399 on Thursday, while SDR-£ was 0.652934.  
Commodities: Rubber's index was at 1493.7 (previous 1490.5).  
Reports pages 25 and 26

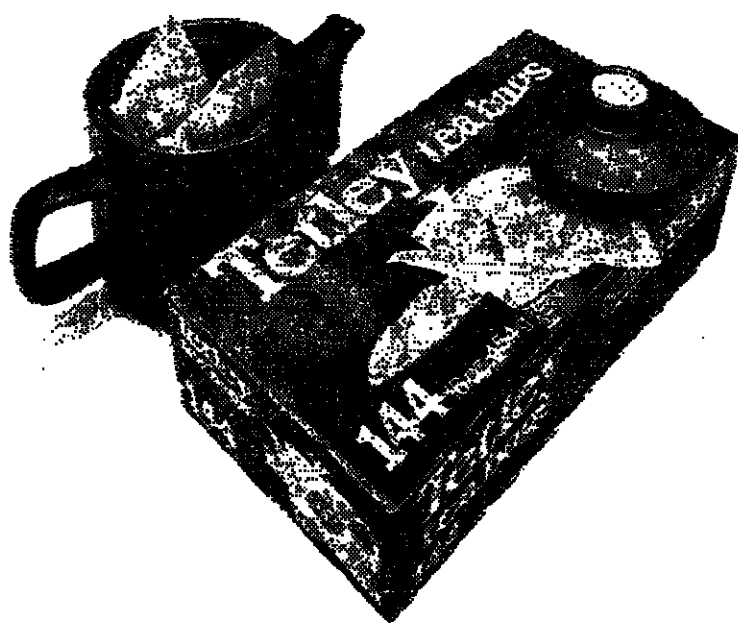
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## British Gas in Monopolies panel scrutiny of appliance sector

A Monopolies Commission investigation of three main gas appliance sectors announced yesterday, will scrutinize the pricing and other policies of the British Gas Corporation which accounts for 75 per cent of the retail side of this £120m-a-year market.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, has asked the Commission to report within two years on sales of gas cookers, gas fires and instantaneous gas water heaters.

This will mean an investigation of appliance manufacturers, of which three—Thorn, United Gas Industries and Tube Investments—are thought to be in a monopoly manufacturing position of at least 25 per cent of their market in each of the three appliance sectors.

Mr Borrie's preliminary investigations have shown that

substantial discount prices have been obtained by British Gas from manufacturers because of their retail dominance.

But British Gas prices for appliances have nevertheless tended to be higher than those charged by other suppliers, mainly department stores and some discount outlets.

Part of these wider margins might be attributable to the after sales and spares service which British Gas provides, said Mr Borrie. "They might also reflect some subsidizing of relatively low charges for servicing and may also subsidize such things as uneconomic showroom."

The Commission has been asked to look into complaints from independent retailers of difficulties in getting delivery from manufacturers, possibly because British Gas has had

preferential treatment in deliveries. There have in some cases been complaints of delays of several months.

The role of British Gas in carrying out the larger part of the advertising for all the appliances will also be looked at because it might be felt that an independent retailers may get less opportunity to expand in the market.

Mr Borrie wants the Commission to look into whether the manufacturers' close ties with British Gas have played a role in their not developing a wide network for after-sales servicing such as exists for electrical appliances.

The Commission will also scrutinize the manufacturers' export performance which since 1973 has been significantly inferior to that of foreign competitors' penetration of the British market.

## Mr Varley may make statement on steel crisis before recess

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

The Government may make an interim statement on the measures to cope with the British Steel Corporation's financial crisis before the Christmas recess.

Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, told an all party committee of MPs investigating the affairs of the corporation last night: "I would certainly consider whether it would be possible and whether I would have anything to say before the House goes into recess."

He explained that a further meeting was due to take place between the BSC and the TUC's Steel Industry Committee. Others would follow, and it was hoped that a full meeting could be arranged early in the New Year.

Neither Mr Varley, nor Mr Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State for Industry, would be drawn into details of the measures which were being proposed.

Mr Varley, questioned about the corporation's financial position in the light of a half year loss of £20m and expected loss for the full year of at least £50m, said that since the establishment of the corporation's £350m cash limit at the end of last year the deterioration in the expected out-turn had been between £25m and £30m.

Of this about £130m was being covered by reductions in the BSC's capital spending programme, while the balance of

savings had been achieved through lower requirements for stocks and work in progress as a result of lower levels of activity.

He stressed, however, that the Government, the TUC and the BSC were not going to be rushed into panic measures. Such action would lead to calamitous problems for the steel industry and for the country at large.

Mr Varley clearly indicated that there will be cuts in the capital spending programme and closure of some of BSC's old plants which are draining its cash resources by £100m a year.

"I believe that a country like the United Kingdom must have a substantial steel industry. This is the reason why I want to see some of the steel investment take place."

"At the same time I want to see some of the obsolete equipment taken out of production in a rational and humane way."

Redundancies: A leading union official at the British Steel Corporation in Corby, Northamptonshire, conceded yesterday that 1,200 of the 12,000 workforce must be made redundant.

Mr John Cowling, a national executive member of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, has previously opposed the management's redundancy plans. But yesterday he said: "After considering all the facts I am now reluctantly convinced that we must cut our losses now, however painful that might be. These jobs at Corby must go."

## No Leyland plant move for Dolomite

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars has been forced to drop plans to move production of its Dolomite saloons from Canby, Coventry, to the new £90m plant at Rover Solihull.

But the company insisted yesterday that the move was a commercial decision, and not because of the year-long campaign waged by Triumph sports stewards to keep car production in Coventry.

They mounted this campaign after the company announced plans to convert Canby into an important engine production centre by concentrating assembly of both Triumph and Leyland cars at Solihull.

In a statement yesterday Leyland Cars said it had changed its mind because of its continuing inability to meet demand for the Rover 3500 and the recently-announced smaller version, the Rover 2300 and 2600.

Two of the three assembly lines installed at Solihull two years ago were originally earmarked for Rover production but the third being mothballed to await the transfer of the Dolomite. This line is now being activated for Rover production.

## Poor year for seaside hoteliers

By Patricia Tisdell

English seaside hotels this year had their worst summer since the 1971 figures released by the English Tourist Board yesterday confirm the resorts' own impressions that bad weather, the public's changing tastes and shortage of cash combined to keep Britons away from hotels.

In August, traditionally the peak month for seaside hotel bookings, occupancy levels were only 78 per cent compared with 83 per cent for the same month a year ago and were the lowest recorded by the board.

In contrast, London hotels had some of their highest occupancy rates. Average London hotels had 83 per cent of their beds and more than 90 per cent of rooms occupied during July.

During the eight months from January to August, the London hotels achieved a monthly average of 67 per cent of beds occupied, an increase of 12 per cent on the year before.

The biggest rise, during July and August, was in non-central and lower-priced hotels in London, which the board says might be an indication of some price resistance from consumers.

Tourists from overseas made up 17 per cent of all guests at hotels throughout England.

## Hint that Carter Bill on energy may be passed soon

From Frank Vogt

Washington, Dec 1

Congressman Thomas O'Neill, the leader of the United States House of Representatives, asserted today that the Congress is likely to approve President Carter's energy programme this month, so paving the way for general tax-cutting proposals in January.

The President has boldly warned the Congress that he will only propose tax reductions if the Congress swiftly approves his energy and social security tax programmes. Thus, the actions of the Congress this month are of critical importance in determining the outlook for the United States economy in 1978.

Congressman O'Neill admitted that little progress is now being seen in the conference of House and Senate leaders on the final shape of an energy Bill.

Yesterday the President confirmed for the first time that he plans to propose tax cuts early in the New Year and that broader tax reform plans will be postponed. But, he noted at

a press conference that he will not decide the details of the tax cuts until Congress has acted on his energy and social security plans.

Top Administration officials have been privately arguing for some weeks that combining tax cuts with comprehensive revision of the tax code will produce an exceptionally long debate in the Congress. This will lead to stalling the implementation of tax reductions that will be vital if the United States is to achieve a 5 per cent real rate of gross national product growth next year.

The President said yesterday that "some of the more controversial items on tax reform that have been proposed to me which would be very time-consuming and have very little monetary significance—might be delayed until later on because I feel that it is necessary to expedite the effectiveness of substantial tax reduction."

By "substantial" it is widely assumed that the President has in mind general tax cuts totalling \$20,000m (£11,111m).

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Copies of the report and accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, Walter Lawrence Ltd, Lawrence House, Sun Street, Sandridge, Hertfordshire, CM21 8LX.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Attitudes to directive on commercial agents

From Mr N. E. Carter

Sir, It was pleasing to read in your paper today (November 29) the views of Mr. Clive Schmitzoff, Professor of International Business Law at the City University and the University of Kent.

My Association is substantially in agreement with Mr. Schmitzoff, except that we see no need to start again after so many years.

The Commission in Brussels has continually stressed that the draft directive is for discussion and amendment between the member states. The legal affairs committee of the European Parliament has approved the draft directive subject to a number of amendments which it recommends should be discussed between the Commission and the member states.

Excepting only the United Kingdom, the Commission is in broad agreement on the necessity for a directive of the nature envisaged. It is left to the British Law Commission to advance the theory that while the draft directive is *intra vires* the Treaty of Rome it is, nevertheless, *ultra vires*.

Yours faithfully, N. E. CARTER.

The Manufacturers' Agents' Association, PO Box 8, Majestic House, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 4DP.

### Use of the term 'engineer'

From Dr R. A. Buchanan

Sir, While sympathizing with Sir Hugh Ford's complaint (letters, November 24) that there is no uniform usage of the word "engineer" in English, it should be observed that the position is in fact more complicated than he suggests. Ever since the term acquired its modern industrial and non-military associations in the Industrial Revolution, there has been a tradition of applying it both to "professional" and to "artisan" engineers.

In the latter category, skilled workmen have called themselves (and been called) engineers at least since the formation of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in 1851, through to the Amalgamated Engineering Union of our own time. The usage was confirmed by the ease with which many artisan engineers moved up into the ranks of the professional engineers, although to those who did so like Nasmyth and Fairbairn were rarely sympathetic to trade unionism.

Moreover, it could be argued that the professional engineers have sacrificed any claim to the use of the unqualified term "engineer" by the assiduous way in which, over the last hundred years, they have encouraged the specialization of the profession into a large number of independent sections, all possessing their own specialist institutions, qualifications and entrance requirements.

It is much to be hoped that, by uniting to define the competence of chartered professional engineers, these independent institutions are at last moving towards the common view of their profession which is necessary if it is to enjoy the public esteem which it deserves. But in achieving this goal it should be content with the designation "chartered engineer" and not attempt to claim a monopoly on a word which is already in use for purposes much greater than those recognized by the profession.

Yours faithfully, R. A. BUCHANAN, Director, Centre for the Study of the History of Technology, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY, November 29.

### Point 'missed' on architects

From Mr J. H. Dolman

Sir, I am sorry to have to tell John Burckett (November 28) that others have written to you expressing disbelief about the Government's hasty acceptance of the Monopolies Commission report on Architects, that they have missed the point.

The point is that the Government has a certain political ideology which calls for specific end results. Because of this, it will accept a report, and it will interpret this report in order to provide the justification for the desired result.

The decision on the abolition of fixed scales, as any lawyer will tell you (as fixed scales are the closure of smaller practices in the legal profession) is just one more example of executive action being taken by this Government in support of social objectives which derive from a fixed political ideology.

Logic, as Mr Burckett points out, had nothing to do with the Government's decision to accept the report.

To criticize the Government for acting unreasonably in accepting the report is therefore of no constructive use. The only thing that Mr Burckett and architects in general can do is to absorb the political lesson and then if they

ever get the chance to act on it, presumably by voting according to whether or not they approve of the social engineering objectives which the Government is apparently pursuing.

As a crumb of comfort, it should be pointed out that the abolition of fixed scales in the legal profession enabled that profession to raise its charges during a period of rapidly increasing inflation. The result of the Government's action was therefore completely the reverse of that intended.

The architects' profession is, of course, in a different position, and one can well foresee the closure of smaller practices when construction work is at a low ebb, and when the Government wants to get the construction industry booming, one can foresee a lack of capacity within the profession, which lack of capacity may well reflect itself in increased fees for those architects then still in practice. Mr Burckett must not confuse the Government's intended social engineering objective with what in practice may happen.

Yours faithfully, J. H. DOLMAN, Forge Mill Farm, Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcester, November 29.

### Dismissal claims

From Mr J. Marshall

Sir, The financial burden upon employers which presently results from claims of unfair dismissal could be greatly reduced by a simple change.

Mr Mordisley in his letter of November 15 referred to the fact that costs can be awarded to one party in an industrial tribunal where the other has acted frivolously or vexatiously. But such cases are few and far between; a positive abuse of court process must be involved, otherwise each party pays their own costs.

There are many more applications which are doomed to failure or likely to fail, without being frivolous. Most of those would be abandoned if costs were generally awarded against the unsuccessful party, as in any other civil action.

Yours faithfully, J. MARSHALL, Ryland, Martineau and Company, 41 Church Street, Birmingham B3 2DY.

## AMC Announcement

The Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Limited announce

that with effect from 1st December, 1977

the rate of interest for

ALL EXISTING VARIABLE RATE LOANS

will be

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This rate will remain in force until the next review date which will be

(a) 1st MARCH, 1978—for borrowers whose loans are reviewable quarterly.

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# Highland Distilleries



THE FAMOUS GROUSE

Mr. J. A. R. Macphail, Chairman, reported continuing progress at the Annual General Meeting held in Glasgow on 1st December 1977.

\* Turnover increased by 37% from £22,095,000 to £30,200,000

\* Profits before tax increased by a similar percentage from £2,436,000 to £3,354,000

\* Earnings per share rose by 46% from 14.6p to 6.7p

\* Proposed total dividend up from £2.585p to £2.887p

(adjusted for bonus issue) (includes S.S.A.T's adjustment)

The increase in turnover was accounted for entirely by the performance of "The Famous Grouse" where Home Trade sales were 38% ahead of last year. Export sales were up by 132% compared with last year's somewhat modest base.

Looking ahead the Chairman said ".....There does seem to be a more hopeful feeling in the industry than for some time past.....Prospects for 'The Famous Grouse' subject always to the qualification of no Government interference, are at the very least encouraging."

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.



Business Di

## UKO International

World's second largest manufacturer of ophthalmic glass lenses and a leading supplier of spectacle frames.

### Interim Report

	Half-year ended 30th September 1977	Half-year ended 30th September 1976
	£000	£000
Group Sales	14,540	12,419
Ophthalmic Group	4,496	3,771
Catering Equipment Group	19,036	16,190
Group Profit before Taxation	1,466	1,403
Ophthalmic Group	445	399
Catering Equipment Group	1,901	1,802
Total	912	901
Less: Taxation, estimated	4	4
Minority Interests		
Group Profit attributable to Members	985	897

Ophthalmic Group. Demand at home and abroad has remained well below normal levels throughout the half year. However, the group is well placed in all markets to take immediate advantage of an upturn in demand.

Catering Equipment Group. Sales and profits of the catering equipment group's products were satisfactory during the half year. Prospects for exports are brighter than for some time.

Dividend. The directors are recommending an interim dividend of 2.93p per share, compared with 2.67p per share in the corresponding period of last year.

UKO International Limited, Bittacy Hill, London NW7 1EN

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## BP with Alaskan earnings to come

BP's product sales are heavily weighted towards Western Europe, and its trading performance, like that of so many other companies which are strong in this area, duly reflects the dismal conditions compounded in France's case by price controls—prevailing in most markets. Weak demand has been reflected in prices so that, while costs are up, realizations are down and with the dollar weak as well, third-quarter net income of \$44.1m is a good £5m or more below the lower range of stock market forecasts. It is a depressingly familiar story, and leave BP's net income down both on the £75.7m of the second quarter and the £51.9m of the third-quarter last year, although for the first three quarters earnings are up from £124m to £210m.

But the key for BP, and the factor which makes it a more attractive investment than Shell, is the transformation it is about to undergo. During the third quarter, Alaskan oil began to flow for the first time. The build-up has had some teething problems, leaving BP with both a \$16m loss on its share of the pipeline and lower earnings from its stake in Sohio, but in the final quarter Alaska should be positive and it will then feed through very strongly indeed during the first-half of next year, culminating in an increase in the Sohio stake from about 40 per cent at the end of this year to 53 per cent, probably by about next June.

The impact on 1978 earnings, given that Forties will still be building up as well, will be dramatic. Net income will almost certainly be more than doubled from this year's likely £300m or more, with the prospect of still more impressive growth to come in the subsequent two years.

Meanwhile, there is reason to look for more good news for BP, both in terms of its North Sea exploration and the level of Alaskan reserves which should do much to offset the continuing dullness of its main European markets. So far there is no sign of a trading upturn, but BP's shares, 900p last night where they sell at about 11 times prospective earnings, should be held more for the fundamental prospects of the next three years than the immediate trading conditions.

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a large medium-sized company and a large company. Moreover, untoward factors are making that transition painful, a point that is not lost on the institutions who have for some time been heavy investors in Rascal. Their attitude, more than anything else, will dictate what happens to the share price during the next six months, and at the moment they show characteristic signs of nervousness.

BASS

### Lifting the depression

Results from Bass Charrington yesterday were some way towards dispersing the clouds of gloom which had been gathering over the brewery sector even before Whitbread announced disappointing results earlier this month.

But, as Bass itself points out ahead of delicate discussions with Mr Hattersley, most of the 32 per cent pre-tax profits increase to £90.4m is due to loss

elimination; last year's figures being depressed by a £4.5m provision against the value of Bordeaux wine stocks and a cautious £7.4m provision for exchange differences.

So, faith in Bass's defensive characteristics which has seen the shares outperform the market by twice the 14 per cent sector average over the last 12 months has been further enhanced. The shares gained 9p to 161p yesterday where the p/e ratio is well in line with the industry average at under 10 and the yield rather lower at just over 4 per cent.

That could provide the cue for some profit-taking, particularly as there are fears that Mr Hattersley will come down on the side of the recent controversial Price Commission report on the industry.

But Bass still has two axes up its sleeve: one concerns the view that beer sales could start to move ahead again sharply on the back of a consumer spending upturn—with lager leading the way. The other is the dividend: this year's payment is 3.4 times covered and a boost of at least 50 per cent would be possible if restraints are lifted.

Such unevenness between the two halves at National and Commercial Bankings—pre-tax profits were only 5 per cent ahead at £31.1m in the opening half but jumped 12 per cent to £33m in the second despite the 4½ per cent drop in average base rate to 8.4 per cent—is not altogether explained by the one third widening of the margin between base and deposit rates to 4.35 per cent in the second half.

There were, it is true, some compensating factors in the shape of continued momentum in the level of advances, especially at Royal Bank of Scotland, which were 6 per cent ahead on the year, profits from gilts (earning yields rather than realizations) are amortized over a five-year period, and a £1.2m increase in expenses thanks to increased profits from Lloyds & Scottish, FFI and loss elimination in Australia.

But it also looks as though the sterling money book recovered some of its composure after a dicey first-half while the rise in bad debt provisions in the first-half may have tailed off.

So it looks as though NatCom's results, clearly a bit of a guide to the London clearing profits because only a quarter of its earnings are overseas, may be misleading. The shares gained 4p to 74p on the results where the yield of 5.4 per cent is about par for the sector.

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On May 13, 1974, a meeting was held in Whitehall attended by Sir Jasper Holman, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Sir Douglas Wast, the Treasury Permanent Secretary. Also present was Sir Claude Hayes, senior Crown Agent. In the words of Sir Jasper: "We went into that meeting perfectly clear that in all circumstances the Crown Agents were best, or were capable of being best."

The collapse of the Crown Agents-backed Stern property group was threatened and no one had any illusions about the possible impact. What was more critical, no one had a high sheet. Then and there, a Crown Agent officer drafted one up on the back of an envelope.

This, for the purposes of history, was the moment of truth after the years of preparation in high places during which a string of Treasury lists vainly drew attention to the vulnerability of an unincorporated historic organization providing a honey-pot for speculative financiers and property developers.

Yesterday's report of the three-man committee of inquiry is one of the most astonishing to be published in modern times, indicating that the Government has immediately described as a failure to apply the normal principles of public accountability.

No one escaped criticism—the Treasury, the Bank of England, the Exchequer and Audit Department, individual Crown Agents, and the Crown Agents, and some businessmen.

No one who has followed the tangled story of the Crown Agents' rescue by the able Mr John Cuckney, backed by Government promises of support and a grant, can fail to be impressed by the thoroughness of the Fay report

and to ensure that nothing of this sort can be repeated again.

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against the evidence presented by the Fay report and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation, both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of this sort can be repeated again.

There is a literal and unpalatable truth in the oft-repeated references to the "explosive" growth of technology. Explosions change their environment in a catastrophic manner; they are irreversible and, once they have consumed the resource that has sustained them, they blow themselves out.

So, with technology, in particular, the computer, the sustained technology in the past are becoming exhausted. New constraints surround the engineer and, if technology (alias engineering) is to survive, it will be in a very different shape.

This parallel has been drawn by Sir Iwan Maddock, formerly Chief Scientist at the Department of Industry and now Secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In his recent Jubilee Lecture at Imperial College, London, Sir Iwan posed the question: "Does engineering have a future?"

The new constraints are not caused simply by the depletion of resources such as cheap energy supplies and minerals, though the depletion of these resources is a growing problem. The growth of population increases demands on dwindling resources and the "third world" countries are rightly demanding their share of the world's resources.

Congestion of various amenities is evident in city centres, sea routes, air lanes, beaches, inland waterways, the radio frequency spectrum and so on.

There is also growing public opposition to the intrusion of new technologies which are seen as sources of nuisance or danger; an increasing feeling that the advance of technology is dehumanizing; and a growing conviction that unemployment is increasing all over the advanced world because of structural changes produced by technological change.

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Maurice Corina assesses the 24-year-long investigation into the Crown Agents

## A chronicle of catastrophe

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation, both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of this sort can be repeated

after two years of evidence.

They now have, too, the previously confidential report prepared by a team led by Sir Matthew Stevenson, which before the storm broke had advised redefining the status of the organization established in 1883 to raise loans and procure supplies for colonial governments.

It is a matter of fact that in October 1968, when Sir Claude Hayes succeeded as chairman of the Crown Agents, *The Times* in examining the organization then being placed in his hands, commented on its anomalous constitution and accountability and stated: "The checks that do exist are mild and virtually ineffective."

Whether that judgment was correct, without benefit of access to all the records and information of Whitehall, and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against the evidence presented by the Fay report and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

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in spite of lifeboats sent out from the City, and those saved are changed by the experience.

Until the Crown Agents are completely disengaged from the property and secondary banking sectors, no one can predict the ultimate loss. The deficit on property and banking investment has already totalled £212m but it is still in Parliament's recent records that, for an emergency Moneylenders Act, there may have been exposure to a risk of £400m.

The thoroughness of Fay can be judged from the fact that it met on 85 occasions and took evidence from 46 witnesses, using the analogy of a Companies Act investigation though the Crown Agents were not a company.

Evidence was not taken from the former money market manager, Mr Bernard Wheatley, who died in July while awaiting trial upon charges of corruption, or Mr Sidney Davidson, a solicitor, who, the Fay report says, saw fit not to respond to telephone messages or letters and the committee "must assume that he declines to give evidence."

Catastrophe, says Fay, is not too strong a word to use. Only a few individuals among the

hundreds on the Crown Agents staff were involved in the "cover-up" activities which led to inferior investments and the enormous provisions. The sad fact, notes the report, is that these few managed to involve an organization whose main work has been well run and held the confidence of principals abroad throughout.

While a new inquiry concerned with any alleged breach of duty now to be set in hand, the future of the Crown Agents has yet to be resolved. A White Paper, published in April, 1976, has indicated the Government's intention that the Agents should become a legal entity through incorporation by statute. The functions and powers of a sponsoring minister could then be defined. On incorporation, the intention has been to give the organization a proper capital structure and borrowing powers appropriate to the assets, liabilities and on-going activities.

In the meantime, the Crown Agents, under Mr Cuckney, survives only on the basis of ministerial declarations of support and the original £85m grant, which is clearly not all proportion to the liabilities set down in a special realization account (at present enabling the organization to disengage from unwise investments of the past).

There is no doubt that Mr Cuckney has been fighting against impossible odds, given the nature of the task and the need to invest even more money—such as in Australian property—to reduce the potential losses. He has done a first-class job. But, sooner rather than later, the Government must act to clarify the Crown Agents' status and to determine the appropriate accountability to Parliament.

Only then will a sorry chapter in an otherwise distinguished 144 years of operations be said to be over.

consumed. Two thirds of the energy put into power stations is discarded, usually to the detriment of the environment. The waste of energy in space heating, in transport and in the manufacture of materials such as steel, aluminium, copper, cement and paper is vast.

"The future society," Sir Iwan says, "will have to conserve and make use of its waste heat, avoid needless escape of energy and find less energy-consuming methods for travel and communications and, above all, in the manufacture of materials."

When he pulled down a 32-storey block in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 300,000 people turned up. He took down a parking lot in Washington DC without even rattling the stained glass windows in a church less than thirty feet away.

"Sometimes I wonder if we are in the entertainment business," said Loizeaux, who blasted his first hole at 10 when planting apple trees on his father's farm.

He was in London yesterday on the way home from a business trip to Paris.

Pitting themselves against their Soviet enemies in ever more devious ways, the Chinese are to start exporting vodka to America. The vodka, called Great Wall Chinese Vodka, will be more expensive than anything from Russia and is being sold under the slogan: "They told us we were making vodka for the good of the party!"

Loizeaux, who is president of Controlled Demolition Incorporated of Baltimore, Maryland, told Huxley that he prefers "a little bit of explosives, and a whole lot of gravity."

You may have seen his handiwork. He's done stunts for Hollywood, and wherever he goes news cameras are likely to follow.

When he pulled down a 32-storey block in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 300,000 people turned up. He took down a parking lot in Washington DC without even rattling the stained glass windows in a church less than thirty feet away.

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Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

## Breaking down the engineers' stockades

'To design aircraft without regard to the problems of noise, fuel consumption or polluting emissions will be just as irresponsible as inadequate attention to the laws of aerodynamics or metal fatigue'

Recycling of materials will become an essential part of the management of resources. The lifetimes of products which are materials (and energy-intensive) will have to be extended to reduce the recycling burden.

In the light of modern technology, for example, there is no need—other than the demands of fashion and the need to keep factories fully employed—for the motor car to be scrapped and recycled every 10 years or so. Corrosion-free, fatigue-resistant materials already exist; the effects of wear can be minimized and, also, ultimately dealt with by such component replacements.

The same applies to a wide range of plant and manufacturing machines, but a very different attitude on the part of the designers and makers is called for.

More and more the deliberate design for longevity will become necessary. Sir Iwan predicts, with modular concepts of assembly so that worn or broken items can be replaced, or outmoded designs updated, by local sub-assembly replacement, without the need to scrap the machine.

Thirdly, it will become more important to "add value" by using skills rather than by simple exploitation of bulk material or energy resources.



## CROWN AGENTS: THE FAY AND STEVENSON REPORTS AND GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

## Inquiry finds losses due to incompetence and condemns secondary banking activity

The Committee of Inquiry, led by Judge Edgar Fay, attributes the substantial losses of the Crown Agents' activities to incompetence rather than misconduct. The actions and inaction of individuals, coupled with defective systems of accountability, management control and bad accounting, were the cause, with outside agents contributing to the failures to prevent the losses.

In a 205-page report, which examines all the circumstances which led the Crown Agents to request government assistance in 1974, the Fay Committee points out that between 1967 and 1974 the organization conducted on its own account a substantial secondary banking activity, engaging in investment and lending which was unwise both in character and degree. The committee concludes that the Crown Agents embarked upon this course without seeking independent advice and we find that they possessed neither the skills nor the organization necessary for such an enterprise. Accountability was lacking in the unfortunate manner in which the operation developed at a time when it was believed that those deploying funds could hardly avoid making a profit. It was thus engendered in the officials concerned an undesired degree of self-confidence. When this came they were totally unprepared, their lack of real banking experience was exposed and they allowed themselves to be locked into situations engendering further losses.

We have no reason to doubt the genuineness of the desire to secure a reserve which was the main reason advanced for the origin of the own-account activities.

But there was another factor in this origin, the factor of realization of the facts that the Crown Agents had large funds to deploy and that there were money-making opportunities open to those with large funds at their command. They had had for many years an embryonic "bank" in the form of the principals' deposits taken by the Joint Consolidated Fund and the Joint Miscellaneous Fund, which they deployed in a variety of ways. Once the eyes of those concerned were opened to the opportunities presented by the management of these funds, they were totally unprepared, their lack of real banking experience was exposed and they allowed themselves to be locked into situations engendering further losses.

## Finance in good hands

There was thus a substantial secondary banking enterprise in being at the time when Mr. Haynes succeeded to the Chairmanship of the Crown Agents. Mr. Chailis, who had played an important part in the development of the enterprise, had been chosen to head the Finance Directorate. After Sir Stephen's departure Mr. Chailis was virtually supreme in his field. He had a newcomer as Chairman, and a Board which he could dominate—the Crown Agents' Board because none of his colleagues possessed the ability to challenge him, and the four Milbank Investment's Board because its majority were his subordinates.

Sir Claude told us that he had been assured by his predecessor that the Finance Directorate was in good hands and that I could concentrate on other things. At Crown Agents' Board meetings, he said, 100 of the members, Mr. Morris and the Managing Director of Milbank Technical Services Ltd. Mr. Roe, would argue with Mr. Chailis, but none of them was as powerful as he was the arguments.

Mr. Newman, the Crown Agents' Managing Director, told us, we were not welcome in the Finance Directorate. Mr. Chailis would consult his Chairman in so far as he thought it necessary or desirable and, not surprisingly, was successful in eliciting his support. Mr. Newman said that this of the Finance Directorate was not a success.

It was well by that he did not direct the day to day operation of the Finance Directorate.

reason why he should. But we have no doubt that the major decisions were the making of the loans to Stern and the GCA Capital Corporation were made at his behest. It was upon Mr. Chailis that the lack of accountability worked its effects. His subordinates were accountable to him, but he was in practice accountable to no one. In theory he was accountable to the Chairman, but the Chairman exercised no effective control over him, and joined forces with him to repel any accountability to external bodies. Lack of discipline under mines morale, and we are sure that the absence of constraints upon Mr. Chailis played a part in producing and perpetuating the characteristics we discuss below.

Alongside the run-of-the-mill deposit operations there were transactions the schemes we have dealt with, and throughout we find that the characteristics of the Finance Directorate under Mr. Chailis included: (i) a lack of risk-taking; (ii) a lack of regulation and control and an aversion from taking advice; (iii) a lack of accountability; (iv) a lack of commercial ethics; (v) a haphazard choice of associates.

We have been rounded by witnesses of the fact that the Crown Agents were not alone in suffering misfortune in 1974: the crisis of confidence in the City, the collapse of many fringe banks, and the over-extended property companies inflicted losses upon the Crown Agents. It is true that the Crown Agents were not alone in suffering misfortune in 1974: the crisis of confidence in the City, the collapse of many fringe banks, and the over-extended property companies inflicted losses upon the Crown Agents.

But the prudent banks, though they had to the Mr. Stern of the time, did so with a proper regard to security and in such proportions as to ensure that losses could be absorbed without endangering their own solvency. With the Crown Agents on the contrary it was a case of two major misadventures: the loss of the whole of the bank's assets, and the loss of the whole of the bank's assets, and the loss of the whole of the bank's assets.

## Speculative ventures

Sterling lending was the province of the Sterling Money Market. Mr. Chailis, who was in charge of the Sterling Money Market, was in charge of the Sterling Money Market. Mr. Chailis, who was in charge of the Sterling Money Market, was in charge of the Sterling Money Market.

## Missed opportunity

One can understand the own-account operation starting in a small way and needing little by way of rules and regulations at the time when the Crown Agents were in a position to take a small step towards the ownership of a property. The Crown Agents were in a position to take a small step towards the ownership of a property. The Crown Agents were in a position to take a small step towards the ownership of a property.

## Solicitors criticized

A feature emerging from the history we have explored is how fortuitous was the Finance Directorate's choice of associates. Mr. Chailis, who was in charge of the Finance Directorate, was in charge of the Finance Directorate. Mr. Chailis, who was in charge of the Finance Directorate, was in charge of the Finance Directorate.

applicants eager to do business with them, especially as they became known in the City, according to evidence given to us as "an easy touch". But it is a strange organization which allows a junior official, as Mr. Wheatley was at the time, to recruit its professional advisers, and to recruit them not from nationally known firms but from young men making their careers. Let us say at once that we have no reason to suppose that in the main the Crown Agents got other than proper advice from the gentlemen we have named. Mr. Walker in particular, who built large in this story, not only gave sound advice, as to Australia and otherwise, but also saved the Crown Agents from losses upon their unstructured plan into the real property world.

The solicitors, Davies, Arnold and Cooper were responsible for using some country in the States case by not registering charges in time and should not have borrowed from the Crown Agents without the latter being separately advised.

The losses which may be classified as due to (i) unsecured lending to borrowers; (ii) support of repayments or at all; (iii) secured lending where the security has proved insufficient or defective; (iv) support of repayments where the security has proved insufficient or defective; (v) support of repayments where the security has proved insufficient or defective.

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vestment business. In fact Sir Claude Hayes did little about these. They were left to be put into practice by the new companies mentioned in the principles, and the process of setting up those companies had hardly started when the government changed in March 1974 and further time became needed for the formulation of a new policy.

In spite of repeated experiences of misfortune, or vision promised and not taken, the Ministry maintained, almost to the end of his tenure of office, his belief that Sir Claude Hayes was to be trusted to secure his pension rights and their patience with his opposition generally.

The Crown Agents' optimistic statements had for long concealed the serious state of their finances, but at last on May 13, 1974, Mr. Haynes' rough balance sheet was disclosed and it became apparent that the organization which had brought about this lamentable state of affairs was allowed to run its affairs with a complete lack of control and supervision.

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Sir Jasper Holton: Deputy Governor of Bank of England, who announced Crown Agents' failure.



Sir Matthew Stevenson: Chairman of Committee which wants Crown Agents' status clarified.



Judge E. S. Fay: report cites shortcomings of Department and other outside agencies.

## Government accepts conclusion of serious shortcomings by agency

The Government statement says: "The Government and the Crown Agents accept the Report as a fair and searching investigation into the facts; and accept the Report's conclusion that there were serious shortcomings in the way in which the Crown Agents conducted their business."

"During this period, there was a lack of clearly defined responsibilities, and the information made available to Ministers was incomplete and often misleading. The Government accepts that this represented a failure to apply the principles of public accountability."

"The Government believes that its efforts to explore the causes of this failure, and to ensure that the Crown Agents are able to carry out their duties in a more effective manner, will be a success."

## Lack of skill

Crown Agents' Accounts for 1976 show that as at December 31, 1976, the deficit on the own-account investments in property and secondary banking (the Real Estate Accounts) was £121m. The deficit on the own-account investments in property and secondary banking (the Real Estate Accounts) was £121m.

## Continued success

It is important to emphasize that the traditional activities of the Crown Agents in providing services to overseas governments have continued, and are continuing successfully. As the Fay Committee has pointed out, what was wrong was not the Crown Agents' financial activities, and those activities themselves formed only a part of the Crown Agents' total business.

## Choice of four models for future organization

The report of the Advisory Committee of Inquiry into the Crown Agents' activities, which was published on December 1, 1977, states, in the introductory paragraph, that the committee was appointed by the Minister for the Civil Service, Mr. John Cuckney, to investigate the Crown Agents' activities, and to recommend ways of improving their performance.

## Misapprehensions

The Bank of England is the national bank of the United Kingdom. It is a public body, and its activities are subject to the control of the Treasury. The Bank of England is the national bank of the United Kingdom.

## Future conduct

Conclusions are reached by the committee on the future conduct of the organization's work, and in some cases it makes recommendations for the future conduct of that work. In a key passage, the committee states that it cannot recommend the Crown Agents to continue to operate in their present form.

## Change of functions

Going on to examine a solution through change of functions, the report states: "We have examined the possibility of minimizing the defects of the Crown Agents' activities by changing their functions, and we have found that this is not a viable solution."

in investment and lending which was unwise both in character and in degree. They embarked upon this course without seeking independent advice and we find that they possessed neither the skills nor the organization necessary for such an enterprise.

"When the crisis came they were totally unprepared, their lack of real banking experience was exposed and they allowed themselves to be locked into situations engendering further losses."

"The sums granted out of public funds to the Crown Agents will be a loss to the taxpayer, and if repaid out of future profits of the Crown Agents will be a loss to their competitive position."

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Judging by the continued success of their traditional role, the Crown Agents' orthodox activities have not suffered from the publicity accorded to their own account business, and in 1975 and 1976 the traditional services produced gross income of £11m and £17m respectively. These services had for nearly 150 years been the main reason for the Crown Agents' existence: they will now be the basis for a continuing future.

## Board structure

"The Crown Agents are now performing their invaluable services on behalf of their Principals, who include: Commonwealth Governments, Associated States and Dependencies; 122 Commonwealth public bodies; and 37 non-Commonwealth governments and agencies. Since December 1974, the Crown Agents have been undertaking an orderly and phased transfer of their property and secondary banking. The Government's assurance means that the position of all depositors is fully safeguarded."

The Statement points out that the Crown Agents' management systems have been changed since the events described in the Fay Report. "Since October 1974 the Crown Agents have had a proper Board structure, consisting of independent part-time members appointed by the Minister and directly responsible to him. A complete internal reporting system has been established, with clearly defined levels of authorization and control."

"In this connection, the Crown Agents' management accounting and financial information system has been improved, and professional and professional qualified people have been appointed from outside the organization to bring in the necessary expertise and knowledge."

"The accounts are now published in accordance with Ministerial direction, agreed with the Treasury, and are subject to the full measure of disclosure."

## Confident government

"The Crown Agents are now on a different footing from when they were first established, and their relationship with Ministers has already been clarified and improved. The Crown Agents' senior management are now fully conversant with the full range of the organization's activities, and the Government places firmly on record its confidence in the Board of the Crown Agents and in their traditional activities now and in the future on behalf of their overseas Principals."

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## BURNETT &amp; HALLAMSHIRE GROUP

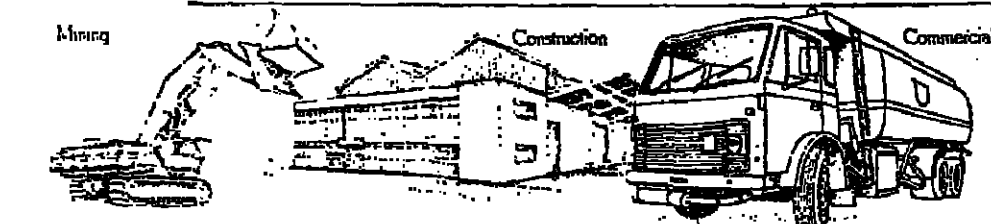
## A FURTHER INCREASE AT INTERIM STAGE

- Pre-tax profits increased by 35%
- Turnover increased by 44%
- Earnings per share increased by 37%
- Progress will be maintained as planned

NIGEL S. SWIFTEN CHAIRMAN

six months ended 30-9-77 six months ended 30-9-76

INTERIM RESULTS (UNAUDITED)	1977	1976
TURNOVER	£17,513,000	£12,059,000
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,420,000	£1,050,000
EARNINGS PER SHARE	13-42p	9-47p
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	1-42/36p	1-27/79p



BURNETT & HALLAMSHIRE HOLDINGS LIMITED  
119 PSALTER LANE SHEFFIELD S11 6TB











**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
*"More ye go"*

## Stock Exchange Prices

# Leaders drift

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 28. Dealings End, Dec 9.  $\S$  Contango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 20  
 $\S$  Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
*"Afore ye go"*

[illegible]



## Bank of Ireland

announces that the following rates will apply from and including

**2nd December 1977**

Base Lending Rate 7½% p.a.

Base Interest Rate for deposits ... 4% p.a.

**Bank of Ireland**

## Standard Chartered

announce that on and after 2nd December, 1977

the following annual rates will apply:

Base rate ..... 7½%  
(Increased from 6%)

Deposit rate ..... 4%  
(Increased from 3%)

**Standard Chartered Bank Limited**



## Co-operative Bank

With effect from 2nd December, 1977 the following rates will apply

Base Rate Change

From 6% to 7% p.a.

Also:  
7 Day Deposit Accounts 4% p.a.  
1 Month Deposit Accounts 4½% p.a.

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If you are resident overseas, the best way of keeping in touch with events back home is by reading The Times. However, due to rising costs and to avoid any unnecessary wastage of newspaper, The Times has reduced the number of copies offered for casual sale, both at home and abroad. Don't risk losing touch. Place a subscription with The Times and be sure of your daily copy. For further information and subscription details, write to: The Subscriptions Manager, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1N 8EZ.



## Barclays Bank Base Rate

Barclays Bank Limited and Barclays Bank International Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 2nd December, 1977, their Base Rate will be increased from 6% to 7½% per annum.

The basic interest rate for deposits will be increased from 3% to 4½% per annum.

The new rate applies also to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited



Reg. Office: 54 Lombard Street, EC3P 3AH Reg. No's 48329, 92088 and 1036167

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Dresdner Bank ahead but margins pressed

From Peter Norman Bonn, Dec 1

Dresdner Bank operating profits rose by about 10 per cent in the first 10 months of this year, Herr Helmut Haugen, the Bank's executive board spokesman, said.

At a press conference in Düsseldorf, he indicated that the cash dividend for 1977 will be reduced from the 20 per cent paid for last year to take account of the changes in West German corporation tax.

But the cut is likely to be small to avoid putting the Bank's shareholders resident outside West Germany at too great a disadvantage.

Dresdner Bank's interim figures for the first 10 months of this year show a slower growth in regular earnings than Deutsche Bank's figures.

Because of a squeeze on margins, the surplus of interest received over interest paid increased by only 6 per cent to DM1,160m despite a 14 per cent rise in the average volume of business.

The surplus from charging commission on service transactions increased fractionally to DM347m from DM344.6m.

**Woolworth record**  
F. W. Woolworth Company of America, reports that sales for the four weeks ended November 22 totalled \$453.3m, an increase of 6.3 per cent over sales of \$426.6m last year. For the 43 weeks ended November 22, sales increased 6.7 per cent to \$4,200m from \$3,900m. These are records for both periods.

**Thyssen payment**  
Thyssen Industrie AG, the West German steel and engineering group which includes the former Rheinmetall AG, should pay a provisional DM62.3m (about £14.8m) compared with DM48.3m to its parent, Thyssen AG for its 1976-77 year, says the chairman, Herr Wolfgang Schaefer.

Thyssen AG's 1976-77 year was DM4,300m against DM4,400m of which the export share was 35.7 per cent against 31.8 per cent. Incoming orders were DM4,000m compared with DM3,800m. There is an order backlog of DM2,700m compared with DM2,900m.

Thyssen AG holds around 90 per cent of Thyssen Industrie's DM470m capital. The 10 per cent minority shareholders will receive a guaranteed 60 per cent of Thyssen AG's expected

DM5.50 1976-77 dividend as agreed under the Thyssen share offer for Rheinmetall, a spokesman said.

### Westralian Sands

Westralian Sands of Australia has issued 28.6m 10 cent per share to Tioxide Australia at 20 cents a share after shareholder approval. The issue gives Tioxide a 40 per cent holding in Westralian Sands. Tioxide's holding company in Britain is Tioxide Group, 44 per cent of which is owned by Imperial Chemical Industries. 44 per cent by Lead Industries Group and 12 per cent by Federated Chemical Holdings.

Westralian Sands also receive from Tioxide its interests in two Western Australian mineral sands and long-term limestone contracts.

### Total Kenya

Total Kenya, a subsidiary of Compagnie Française des Pétroles, has started drilling operations off the coast of Kenya. The company acts as operator for an association of the two French oil groups CFP (Total) (70 per cent) and Société Nationale Elf Aquitaine (30 per cent). The offshore well has been named "Slime-1" and is located off Mombasa, in 920 metre-deep water.

### Carter Hawley boost

Carter Hawley Hale Stores of Los Angeles, which sold its stake in the House of Fraser to Lorrain, says that sales for the four weeks ended November 26 were \$151.8m (about £84.3m), an increase of 12.2 per cent from \$135.3m in November 1976. Sales for the first 10 months of this year were \$1,100m, an increase of 8.6 per cent over the \$1,000m for the same period of 1976.

### Credit Suisse sale

Credit Suisse has sold its controlling interest in the Swiss bank to a consortium of 100 investors. The bank said that it sold its interest in Jelmoli, amounting to about 50 per cent, to the Basel-based holding company UTC AG at 1,800 francs per share. Jelmoli has 550,000 shares outstanding at the close of the Zurich Stock Exchange yesterday.

### Fruehauf of US has over 44 pc of Crane's capital

Fruehauf Corporation of the United States may be nearing victory in its 13-month-old battle to take over the Crane Fruehauf, the Norfolk-based manufacturers of semi-trailers, tankers and tankers. On November 30, Fruehauf bought 116,000 ordinary shares in Crane at 100p a share, which is the current price offered by Fruehauf after being raised five times.

Fruehauf now owns or has agreed to buy 6.81 million Crane ordinary shares, or over 44 per cent of the capital. This means that rival bidder Inchcape, which has made a lower offer but has the agreement of the United Kingdom directors of Crane, may soon be defeated.

On Wednesday, Mr G. F. Malley, the Fruehauf president, met shop stewards representing Crane's manufacturing locations to talk over the implications of the bid situation. After the meeting, said they were "impressed by what Mr Malley had to say regarding future job-security of Crane Fruehauf employees and the future prospects of the company should Fruehauf be successful in their takeover bid".

**ERGO LISTING**  
East Rand Gold & Uranium (Ergo) has applied for a listing on the Stock Exchange, London, and expects dealings to begin on Monday.

**RCH UNDERWRITING**  
Bland Welch, part of Bland Payne insurance broking group, and Edgar Hamilton Carter, Lloyd's brokers, have set up new company, RCH Underwriting Management, to act as agents for

### Briefly

**new motor syndicate** Syndicate is called Tudor Motor Policies and will write their business with an expected initial premium capacity of over £1m.

**HALLAM PREFERENCE** Board announced that preference dividend for half year to December 31 will not be paid.

**ALLIED PLANT** Resolutions passed for sale of two properties and Reynolds (Excavations), as were resolutions to buy Malcolm West Plant, one-third interest in P. & S. White, 75 Beverley Road, Hull which incorporated issue of 1m shares in part payment. Resolutions for capitalisation of 4m shares also passed.

**DE LA RUE ACCEPTANCES** Acceptances received in rights issue amount to some 89.5 per cent of 1.7m shares offered.

**EDINBURGH & DUNDEE** Board announced by British Rail Pension Fund claims of over 50 per cent acceptance. Shareholders advised to no nothing, as they will not be asked to vote on a majority unless offer goes unconditional.

**BANK OF MONTREAL** Revenue after tax for year to October 31 \$122m (\$35.9m). Income tax \$3.18 (\$2.71). Major factors were strong asset growth and continued improvement in control of operating expenses.

**LONGBOURNE-BRIT IND TEA** Acceptances received by Longbourne total 154,000 (91.5 per cent) which with holdings totals 91.6 per cent. Offer for preference still conditional on ordinary offer becoming unconditional.

### Business appointments

**Board addition to Ready Mixed Concrete**

Mr A. H. A. Dibbs has been elected a director of Ready Mixed Concrete.

Mr R. C. Thompson and Mr P. M. White have joined the board of Carrington Vitella Group.

The Earl of Dartmouth and Mr N. Vason have become additional directors of Scottish and Mercantile Investment.

Mr W. R. Henry, Mr W. Proudfoot and Mr G. R. H. Reid have been made directors of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.

Mr David Griffiths has been made financial director of Prestcold Holdings. Mr James Hamilton becomes managing director of Prestcold Scottish operations.

Mr Alexander Brown has been made a director of Alfred Dunhill. Mr K. Kikuchi has been appointed by Mitsui Bank as general manager, New York.

Kawamura becomes general manager, London. Mr Mike Roberts has gone on to the board of Ricca.

Mr John Dewey, formerly deputy chairman of Humphries Holdings, has been made chairman in succession to Mr Hugh Dundas, who has resigned from the board.

Mr P. Brown, Mr P. G. Edwards and Mr B. A. Johnson have become directors of Corvald. Mr John Strain is now chairman of H. Pickup.

Mr P. Chilton becomes a director of Sphère Drake (Underwriting). Mr C. D. Mackay has been made managing director of Paktrans.



**£6,000 plus Appointments**



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## CORPORATE ATTORNEY

Needed for position in a Paris based international petroleum company. Should have minimum of two years legal experience. Must be fully fluent in English and Arabic and able to handle legal matters in both languages. French desirable extra.

Extensive travel. Relocation likely to Middle East Unit Headquarters.

Please submit C.V. in English together with recent photograph to:

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## MARKETING MAN FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Two Swedish companies concerned with engineering and electrical production and installation are jointly seeking an experienced marketing man to expand their activities in the Middle East.

AB-NVS Installations AB produces pipes, tanks, heat exchangers, pressure vessels and various steel constructions and also carries out complicated pipe assembly and complete machine installations for industry. Emil Lundgrens Elektriska AB is a leading electrical installation contractor, specialising in low and high tension and automation equipment. Its products include cubicles and switchgear.

Ideally, applicants for the post will have had experience of negotiating and concluding agreements for pipe, mechanical and electrical installations, and will certainly possess a relevant marketing background. The successful applicant will be based in the Middle East, but will be expected to spend a certain amount of time in Sweden. An attractive remuneration package will be offered.

Further information about the post can be obtained via the telephone number below. Applications, which must be received by 8th December, should be sent to Guy Warwick Associates, Lottfield House, Orwell, near Royston, Herts. SG8 5QT. Telephone Arrington (022 920) 787. Interviews will be held in London in mid-December.



## HEAD Required for Senior Girls Community School

7 miles from Bath

School caters for 58 disturbed girls aged between 14 and 18 in local authority care. Education is provided on the premises and girls live in family groups within the school. Self-contained staff accommodation available in grounds. Teaching, social work, child care or nursing qualifications and experience essential. Salary £5,198 to £6,822 plus £312 supplement, plus 5 per cent.

For further information or informal visit contact: THE CORRESPONDENT, ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, ASHWICK HALL, MARSHFIELD, CHIPPENHAM, WILTS. TEL. MARSHFIELD 402.

Closing date for application: 12th December. Applications should be sent to THE CORRESPONDENT, ASHWICK HALL, MARSHFIELD, CHIPPENHAM, WILTS.



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We require experienced bi-lingual Telephone Sales Person to research English and German computer business knowledge. This is a new and exciting opportunity for the right person. Enquiries to: 01-400 1134 for appointment (reverse charges) Monday to Friday.

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For busy Harley Street practice to start as soon as possible. Some slow typing, and nursing experience an advantage. Hours 9-5.30. Salary around £7,000 negotiable. PHONE 486 7431

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**ADMIN. ASSISTANT** 25 to 30ish to Head of Probation College, 100 St. John's Road, London. Must be able to handle the ability to deal with professional people, organize committee meetings and deal with the public. Salary £3,000 p.a. to £3,500 p.a. plus benefits. Apply to: 01-734 0502.

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Please write giving details of age, experience and present salary to The Editor, Room 2201, Country Life, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS.

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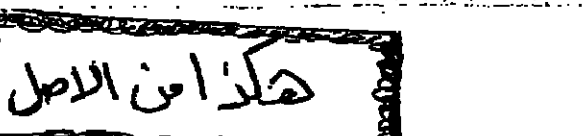
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LARGE MULTI-NATIONAL GROUP  
HEADQUARTERED IN ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND

SEEKS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
TO VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER

The job would suit someone of 25-30, with initiative, enterprise and a stable and mature outlook. Our working language is English—the job will be based in Rotterdam—initial interviews will be held in London. Starting salary will be £7,000 per annum, plus holiday allowance, bonus and other benefits. We offer pleasant working conditions and help in moving and finding accommodation. For this exceptional opportunity we are looking for an exceptional Secretary. The applicant will have:

- ★ Excellent secretarial skills with emphasis on legal English.
- ★ At least 3 years' executive secretarial experience at Director or Senior Legal Partner level.
- ★ Experience and willingness to work from dictation machine and shorthand.

A knowledge of foreign languages, especially German, would be an advantage.

Please write in the first instance with recent photograph and full c.v. to our U.K. subsidiary:

Attention Mr. L. White, Financial Director  
SOAG MACINERY LIMITED

Transport Avenue, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex  
This vacancy is known within our Organisation. All applications will be held in strict confidence.

## LA CREME DE LA CREME

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IN INTERIOR DECORATING

The General Trading Company is looking for two mature and intelligent people to work in their Interior Decorating and Fabrics Department early in the New Year.

One person aged between 25 and 40 is required to be deputy head, and assist in buying and running the department and the other person is required to be a qualified interior decorator with the considerable experience necessary to carry out interior design projects to a high standard.

The second position is for a similarly qualified person aged between 25 and 35 with several years' practical experience of doing interior design projects and ceiling fabrics and soft furnishings.

A good salary, incentive commission and agreeable surroundings. Please write giving your age, qualifications and present earnings to:

David Part,  
THE GENERAL TRADING COMPANY,  
144 Sloane Street, London S.W.1.

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144 Sloane Street, London, S.W.1.

DOMESTIC AND  
CATERING SITUATIONSUrgently required  
COOK GENERAL

with Gordon Bleu experience for gentleman's household in London. A live-in position with an excellent salary for the right person.  
Ring 486 2367  
NOW!

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Large country home in the heart of London. Chauffeur required to drive a 1977 Rover P5B. Housekeeper to manage household, laundry, and general housework. Excellent salary. Good references essential. Please write to: Box 0081 K, The Times.

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REQUIRED

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WANTED

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Rover 35 Coupé 1967. Excellent throughout, £500.00. 24,000 miles. Grey with black leather interior. Radio. Mot. Over £1,200. Tel: 01-624 0881 day. Bulls Green (04378) 475 evening.

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Automatic. 1977. 24,000 miles. Excellent throughout, £500.00. 24,000 miles. Grey with black leather interior. Radio. Mot. Over £1,200. Tel: 01-624 0881 day. Bulls Green (04378) 475 evening.

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Newly furnished 4 floor flat, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 gardens, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 country houses, 2 castles, 2 manor houses, 2 estates, 2 villages, 2 towns, 2 cities, 2 counties, 2 regions, 2 countries, 2 continents, 2 worlds.

WILLMOTTS  
Luxury 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 gardens, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 country houses, 2 castles, 2 manor houses, 2 estates, 2 villages, 2 towns, 2 cities, 2 counties, 2 regions, 2 countries, 2 continents, 2 worlds.

FULHAM FAMILY HOUSE BY PERMANENTLY AVAILABLE FURNISHED 1st floor flat, 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 gardens, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 country houses, 2 castles, 2 manor houses, 2 estates, 2 villages, 2 towns, 2 cities, 2 counties, 2 regions, 2 countries, 2 continents, 2 worlds.

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JAMES & JACOBS, S.W.1. Spacious 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 gardens, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 country houses, 2 castles, 2 manor houses, 2 estates, 2 villages, 2 towns, 2 cities, 2 counties, 2 regions, 2 countries, 2 continents, 2 worlds.

N.W.1. Luxury flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fireplaces, 2 balconies, 2 terraces, 2 gardens, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 golf courses, 2 country houses, 2 castles, 2 manor houses, 2 estates, 2 villages, 2 towns, 2 cities, 2 counties, 2 regions, 2 countries, 2 continents, 2 worlds.

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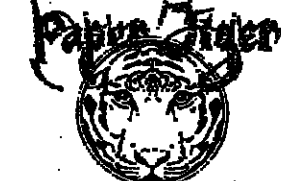
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The successful applicant must be able to work effectively on personal initiative. Salary will be negotiable. Please contact Martyn Dean, after 10.30 a.m., on 727 1069 for further details.

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In WCI firm of solicitors. Very varied work. Plenty of responsibility. Salary £3,000 p.a. Please write to: BOX 0047 K, THE TIMES with full c.v.

Secretary P.A.  
INTERNATIONAL CO.

Experienced confidential Secretary with lots of ability. Chairman of International Co. with super offices in W.1. Must be flexible, have excellent skills, a sound knowledge of export documentation and be able to handle a wide variety of work is involved and for person who can take the salary is really excellent. If you've got what it takes ring 01-486 8551.

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to the  
PRODUCTION  
ADMINISTRATOR

Applicants must have a knowledge of film production and administration. Salary £3,000 p.a. Please write to: BOX 0047 K, THE TIMES with full c.v.

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SECRETARY/P.A.  
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The Chairman  
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PRIVATE SECRETARY  
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Street Urological and  
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Salary around £3,500.  
Tel.: 01-935 6155.

## Broadcasting

7.30 pm  
ITV

Anglia, the doyen of ITV drama, returns to the network with Backs to the Land, a comedy series that tells the story of Mum's Army, the Land Girls of the Second World War. Deserves to succeed; but so did Weaver's Green.

9.50 pm  
BBC2

The ever-viewable Horizon asks what makes men jump up and down, pedal, run, leap off cliffs and buildings—all in an attempt to fly. Computers are getting into even this act, it seems.—IRR.

## BBC 1

12.45 pm, News. 1.00, Pebble Hill. 1.45-2.00, Barnaby. 3.15, The Great British Bake Off. 4.15, Play School. 4.45, Muckleberry. 5.15, The Great British Bake Off. 5.45, Muckleberry. 6.15, The Great British Bake Off. 6.45, Muckleberry. 7.15, The Great British Bake Off.

## Thames

11.55 am, Felix the Cat. 12.00, A Handful of Songs. 12.10 pm, The Great British Bake Off. 12.20, The Great British Bake Off. 12.30, The Great British Bake Off. 12.40, The Great British Bake Off. 12.50, The Great British Bake Off.

## London Weekend

7.00 pm, The Muppet Show, with Terence Brown. 7.30, The Great British Bake Off. 8.00, The Great British Bake Off. 8.30, The Great British Bake Off. 9.00, The Great British Bake Off. 9.30, The Great British Bake Off.

## Granada

12.00, Thames. 1.30 pm, This Is Your Right. 1.30, Thames. 2.15, Thames. 3.15, Thames. 4.15, Thames. 5.15, Thames. 6.15, Thames. 7.15, Thames. 8.15, Thames. 9.15, Thames. 10.15, Thames. 11.15, Thames. 12.15, Thames.

## BBC 2

11.00-11.25 am, Play School. 7.00, News Headlines. 7.05, Roadworthy. 7.30, Newsday. 8.15, Kilvert's Diary. 8.25, Money Programme. 8.30, News. 8.45, News. 9.00, News. 9.15, News. 9.30, News. 9.45, News. 10.00, News. 10.15, News. 10.30, News. 10.45, News. 11.00, News. 11.15, News. 11.30, News. 11.45, News. 12.00, News. 12.15, News. 12.30, News. 12.45, News. 12.55, News.

## ITV



